

gh  
GENERAL

JL 3/Kennedy, Robert F.  
FG 795  
HE5

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Roth:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Nathan Roth<sup>\*</sup>  
Nine Phillip Street  
Nassau, New York 12123

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

AVB:tap  
9

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

19  
encl. *and* *Re New Legislation*  
*K-1*  
*sl-69* *6-18*  
*A*

June 11, 1968

*c/s2*

President Lyndon B. Johnson

Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

I am a Feature Story writer for the Troy Record, in Troy, New York, and sick, saddened and disheartened over the atrocious crime committed on Senator Robert F. Kennedy, I wrote the enclosed article.

Many, many people feel as I do. We want legislation passed to give full scholarships and grants to those dedicated men, who have the ability and desire to go into this field. The maniac must be gotten off the streets and kept away until he can function in society. A trained person can recognize this maniac before he strikes. We want also better and more mental institutions, so the diseased man perhaps can become well once more, and if not, he must be kept away. All of this can be brought down to the local level, for several years ago, in the Town I live, a demented man, released from an institution, killed a doctor, who had gone to his home, when called.

I want to compliment you on your selection of men on the new Commission to Combat Violence.

Sincerely,

*Ruth Turk Roth*  
Ruth Turk Roth  
9 Phillip Street  
Nassau, New York, 12123  
Box 354

enclosure

*sent*



## "It Must Not Happen Again"

-----

Americans have now awakened from a nightmare to find that is is all true. Yes. Senator Robert F. Kennedy is dead, and he was assassinated by a loathsome, cruel, inhuman and diseased man; a man who should have been taken off the streets and away from society before he had a chance to strike; a man who hated himself more than he hated society.

One's griefstricken reaction was that this must be a sick country. However, as the hours went by and one saw thousands and thousands of people, no matter what their political alliances were, heartbrokenly paying their respects, one knew immediately that this was not a sick country, but a country full of wonderful people, who should not be blamed for the crime of a diseased man. Many people are wondering how they can help to stop this contagious disease, a disease which is spreading all too rapidly; yet others are pondering what creates this type of beast.

It is the duty of every parent; every school; every citizen; and every man elected to public office to see that this does not happen again.

When a child comes into this world, he is born with a clean slate. However, he needs parents who will nurture him with love and with kindness; with understanding and encouragement; with recognition and respect; with honesty and with fairness, so that he can enter the outside world free of fear, of hate, of prejudice, of jealousy, of hostility, and with the feeling that the world is a nice place in which to live. For, when a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight; when a child lives with fear, he learns to be afraid; when a child lives with jealousy, he learns to hate; when a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident; when a child



lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative; when a child lives with love, he learns to love; when a child lives with recognition, he learns to have a goal; when a child lives with fairness, he learns justice; when a child lives with honesty, he knows what truth is; when a child lives with friendliness, he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.

When parents have failed, then the country becomes infested with sick people. It is then the duty of the school to recognize this and take the necessary steps to help the child. This can only be done with an adequate amount of psychiatrists and psychologists in the school. The citizen can help by writing letters to his representative, asking him to help pass legislation enabling more money to be spent towards this end. The millions of dollars being sent to other countries, to help citizens there, while our citizens are dying on the streets, can be directed in large grants and scholarships to the young people, encouraging them to go into the fields of psychiatry and psychology and in mental hygiene. Trained people are needed desperately to detect the criminal before he strikes. The sick must be removed from the streets, before it is too late. More mental institutions are needed, and better conditions in the mental institutions, are needed, so that the sick can be treated and kept until they are well again, and not be released to repeat their attacks of violence.

The whole Nation must be attuned to the call of the young people, for they are crying out, saying; "Help us make this a Peaceful country, which in turn will bring peace to a chaotic world."

Ruth Turk Roth  
9 Phillip Street  
Nassau, New York, 12123  
Box 354 - Rensselaer County



gh  
GENERAL

IL 3/Kennedy, Robert F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Mouw:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Florence R. Mouw<sup>x</sup>  
302 Arizona Avenue, NW.  
Orange City, Iowa 51041

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)SM:tap  
3

*clb* *Ina* *Comptroller Death*  
*of Sen RFK* Orange City, Iowa. June 6th  
President Johnson: *SL-69 6-18*

Dear Sir: My heart too is grieved this morning with the sad news of Sen. Kennedy's death. I realize the whole world is in a turmoil & confusion.

So many people asking--Why--Why ?

Why all this violence & confusion ?

But if you will open your BIBLE and read 2 Chronicles-chapter 7 and verse 14 , you will understand. As the LORD was speaking to Solomon in that day, HE is also speaking to AMERICA. GOD is being left out of the plans these days, and SELF put in the place of GOD. My PRAYER is-- May AMERICA turn back to GOD and once more be a GOD fearing & a GOD loving Nation, then HE will hear from HEAVEN and heal our land.

Sincerely--

MRS.FLORENCE R.MOUW

302 Arizona Ave, N.W.

Orange City, Iowa. 51041



Each Morning when I awake, I say-

I place my hand in GODs to-day

I know HE will stay close by my side

My every wondering step to guide,

HE leads me with the tenderest care,

When paths are dark, and I despair.

No need for me to underatamd, if I but

hold fast to HIS hand.

My hand in HIS, no surer way, to walk in

safety through each day.

By HIS great bounty I am fed, warmed by

HIS love and comforted.

When at ends day I seek my rest, and realize

how much I'm blest, My thanks go out

to HIM, and then, I place my hand

in GODs again.

gh  
GENERAL

IL3/Kennedy, Robert F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Beauchamp:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Carl C. <sup>x</sup>Beauchamp  
5 Weymouth Street  
Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

SM:tap

3



*Comments on Assassination  
of Sen RFK*  
*sm* *ph-69* *6-18*

June 6, 1968

Dear Mr. President,

John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and now Robert F. Kennedy.....  
all dead, all assassinated.

The first reaction of the nation was "Oh my God" immediately followed by "What is wrong with this country"? Quite contrary to popular opinion, there is nothing wrong with this country, or its society. This is truly the greatest country in the world. What then, you might ask, is killing the leaders of this great society? The answer to this question is quite logical, the killing is being done by ill-minded individuals. It is not a conspiracy, nor is it politically oriented, but rather a private endeavor waged by one hypercynical and insignificant individual, striving for ultimate recognition. The normal person strives for fame, this type of person feels that fame is impossible, but that infamy is definately within reach. He entertains the thought of total recognition, while almost overlooking the risks involved.

This type of person cannot be stopped by regulating the present arms laws (though it might help), nor can his infamous act be anticipated. He must be deprived of the goal for which he thrives..... recognition. This can be accomplished by omitting the assassin from public appearances, and by not divulging his name or personal statistics to the general public. By doing this, we are depriving this individual of his primary reason for committing this act, we are, in effect, truncating his motivation for infamous recognition.

Just as history records famous American heroes, it also records infamous heroes. We must ask ourselves if it is really essential that our children be taught such names as, John Wilkes Booth, or Lee Harvey Oswald.

If recognition is the assassin's nourishment, then the only possible solution is starvation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carl C. Beauchamp*

Carl C. Beauchamp  
5 Weymouth Street  
Fitchburg, Mass. 01420

GEN. LE\JL3

June 18, 1968

JL3/Kennedy R.F.

---

Dear Miss D'Avola:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow. In his words:

"The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death cast a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world."

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. Time and again he has called upon Congress to enact genuinely effective gun control legislation. You may want to read in full his message of June 6 to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The enclosed copy comes to you with the President's appreciation for your interest -- and his hope for your active support in this urgent cause.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Miss Rose D'Avola  
Apartment 8  
12848 Lakewood Boulevard  
Downey, California 90242

Enclosure: (President's June 6, 1968 letter to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate)

CF:ms



gh  
GENERAL

IL 3/Kennedy, Robert F.  
RM

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Marino:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

+  
Mrs. Rose Marino  
Basement Apartment  
7-Ten-Broeck Street  
Albany, New York 12207

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:sle  
9

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CRIMINAL FILES



25 - Ambler - RFK

Back 6/18/69

mb  
29.69

Dear President Johnson,

This is not anything new with these killings. First it is President Kennedy - then Oswald - Dr. Luther King & now most important Robt. Kennedy. Can't you & your government see that the people in this country are truly sick. I mean mentally sick. You say you can't understand what you & the rest of the government can do to stop this sickness. What we need so very much is to bring in Billy Graham as an advisor - most of all we need to bring God back to this country. You are chief head of this government - then I think that you should insist & demand that all in this country should be forced to go back to church & God to pray for Kennedy. We need all the prayers we can get. It doesn't matter which church they go so long as they go & pray. The people of the U.S. are mentally sick since they strayed away from God & the church - & it will not change till they all decide to go back to God & church. It could happen to you - <sup>anyone of</sup> your congress - legislature & Senators. Anyone could just step out the door or inside & get it the same way Senator Kennedy got it without warning. Now I think that you should stop talking & do something drastic - so this won't get a chance (over)



to happen again. The time now is to stop  
talking - but do something. Please try & get  
Billy Graham to advice & ask his help so  
we can try & save this country before it is  
too late. Hoping & praying to God that you  
will try & follow thru - that is if you really  
care what happens to this country.

Yours Truly,

Mrs. Rose Marino - Basement Apt.  
7 - Fen - Brock - St.

Albany - 12207 - N.Y.

P.S. - I have been saying the rosary &  
I am going to keep on. We need prayers  
from everyone in this country & really mean  
it.

*mec*

GENERAL

*TL3/Kennedy,  
Robert F.*

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Benson:

President Johnson deeply appreciated the confidence reflected in your letter at this time of terrible sorrow. He asked me to thank you -- and to reassure you of his lasting commitment to the cause of peace, unity, and justice for all men.

Although the material you requested is not available for distribution from this office, you may want to have the enclosed releases.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

<sup>X</sup>  
Mr. Neil Benson, Jr.  
c/o McKinley Home  
762 West Cypress Avenue  
San Dimas, California 91773

Enclosures: Rels: 6/6 Proc. on Death of RFK; 6/5 Statement on Shooting of Sen. RFK; 6/6 Ltr. to Speaker of House & Pres. of Senate; 6/10 Rmks to Commission on Cause & Prevention of Violence.

SM:mec

6

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES



Comments on assassination  
Requests books + photos of RFK  
Request for Pres

Pm 6/6

DEAR SIR,

ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 6, 1968 AT 1:44 PM. WE LOST OUR FUTURE PRESIDENT. AS YOU KNOW HE WAS ROBERT F. KENNEDY. HE WAS ASSASSINATED. HIS BROTHER, JOHN F. KENNEDY, WAS ASSASSINATED LESS THEN FIVE YEARS AGO. MAY GOD BE WITH BOTH OF THEM.

I ASK YOU PRESIDENT JOHNSON; WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE DEMOCRATIC AMERICA WE USE TO HAVE. THE THREE ASSASSINATIONS WE HAVE HAD WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAS STRUCK PEOPLE MIGHTY HARD. ESPECIALLY YOU AND THE FAMILIES OF THE ASSASSINATED. ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT MUST STOP, IT MUST STOP!

THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE LONG WANTED THIS. THEY WANT AMERICA TO RISE AGAINST ITSELF. IF WE DO, WHICH I PRAY NOT, THEY WILL STRIKE.

THE AMERICANS OF TODAY AND FOREVER MUST WORK TOGETHER NO MATTER WHAT THE RACE, WEALTH, OR SMARTNESS OR DUMBNESS. IF WE DON'T, IT MAY RESULT IN DOWNFALL, AMERICA'S DOWNFALL, THE "DEMOCRATIC" DOWNFALL.

I ASK THIS OF YOU, SEND ME SOME BOOKLETS + PICTURES ON SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY. I WISH TO REMEMBER A MAN WHO DIED WINNING.

YOU'RE THE ONLY DESENT PRESIDENT LEFT. I PRAY YOU STAY IN OFFICE; I PRAY.

(OVER)

HERE IS MY ADDRESS, PLEASE WRITE BACK.

NEIL BENSON JR.

% MCKINLEY HOME

762 W. CYPRESS AVE.

SAN DIMAS, CALIFORNIA

91723

SO LONG FOR NOW,

THANK YOU SINCERELY,

NEIL BENSON JR.

(over)



GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy,  
Robert F.  
Hu 4

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Rehling:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Lorraine<sup>X</sup> Rehling  
17 Rock Ridge Drive  
Port Chester, New York 10573

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

CFH:oi

9

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

MRS. W. T. KEHLING  
17 ROCK RIDGE DRIVE, PORT CHESTER, N. Y. 10573



PEACE



JUN 10 1968

President Lyndon Baines Johnson  
Washington D.C.



B.  
Enm<sup>B</sup>  
dh69

June 7, 1968

Dear President Johnson,

I am a middle-class, law-abiding citizen. I can't understand the present trend of this country. At the age of 45, I feel prehistoric in my respect of authority and discipline. My family and friends join me in horrified shock at the permissiveness displayed by authorities on our university campuses and in riot areas.

Yet to speak out against such lawlessness three days leads to a maligned brand of anti-humanitarian and anti-intellectual. I am guilty of neither.

I strongly support your statement that 200,000,000 Americans are not responsible for these murders and that violence will not be permitted in this country.

Yours truly,  
Mrs Lorraine Rehling  
(EAV)

GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy  
Robert F.

ND19/CO312

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Rogerson:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Kermit <sup>X</sup>Rogerson  
633 Sixth Street  
Glen Dale, West Virginia 26038

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

SN:tap

3

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES



27 Am  
Kennedy Justice  
SH-69  
June 6, 1968  
633-6th St.  
Glen Dale, W. Va. 26038

Dear President J. B. Johnson,

We are shocked the same as the  
rest of the people of this country  
of the death of Bobby Kennedy.  
It seems to me you, Pres. of this  
Country has more than your  
share of trouble on your hands.  
This Country is in a very sad  
shape. We think the war in  
Viet and Saigon is bad but it  
is just as bad if not worse  
here on the home front. <sup>I do have</sup> relatives in  
the service.  
I did not know Bobby Kennedy

For his brother John personally, but  
I have the good sense to know  
they were two very good boys  
and indeed intended to do good  
for our Country. I do not think  
such good people as these  
brothers should die so young  
and at the point of a gun.  
They had good intentions but  
I also know the people of our  
Country are very ignorant and  
do not realize when one is  
trying to help them.

I believe this man <sup>which</sup> ~~was~~  
murdered Bobby Kennedy should  
be put to death immediately



3/ if you are going to show  
the people of our country  
you have the power in your  
hands to rule this country.  
If I were President of this  
Country or any other Country  
I would take in to consideration  
these to deaths in the Kennedy  
family. I do believe this is  
your only solution to end  
vigilance in our country. Unless  
action is taken immediately I  
am afraid we are going to have  
a war here on our own home

front. Jealousy and hatred  
are mounting and it is getting  
worse all along. I do not speak  
only for myself but many feel  
the same as I do. The only  
difference is, I am taking the  
time to write to you.

You must <sup>put</sup> to death this man  
if you want to save our nation.  
I have boys of my own, I have  
3 grandchildren, I am not a  
Crank I am speaking for our  
people here at home. Jealousy &  
hated are worse than any sickness  
known to man. Sincerely yours  
Mrs. Kermit Rogers



gh

GENERAL  
JL 3/Kennedy, Robert F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Rosenfeld:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Rhoda <sup>+</sup>Rosenfeld  
Apartment 3-L  
747 Valley Street  
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:sle

9



MISS RHODA ROSENFELD  
747 VALLEY STREET, APT. 3-L, MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07040



President Lyndon B. Johnson  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

JUN 6 1968



27m<sup>2</sup> 221-69  
CCK 221-69  
ack 6/18/82

June 5, 1968

7:30 a.m.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I awoke this morning to the sickening news of Bobby Kennedy's shooting. I am a teacher and about to go off to school. How can I face my children this morning when our country is "on the skids?" What kind of hope can anyone give youngsters these days?

There <sup>are</sup> many, many SICK people in this country. If you or your aides never had the opportunity to walk the streets of New York City, you had missed this phenomenon — there are hundreds of people walking the streets who literally talk to themselves. It is unbelievable.

I haven't, for one single moment, any idea that you will see this letter, but it is just a compulsion to satisfy the agony which I now feel.

Very sincerely,  
mar. Photo Rosenfeld

GENERAL

dg  
JL3/Kennedy, R.F.  
JL3  
June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Clark:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for writing in this hour of great sorrow. He is very much aware of the distress that tragic events in this country may cause those whose loved ones are directly engaged in the defense of freedom.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a Nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged Congress to enact stringent crime and control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read the enclosed copies of his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence.

Our Nation will be forever indebted to families like yours who are contributing so much to the cause of freedom. You and your sons have the President's gratitude, his warm good wishes -- and the pledge of his untiring search for peace.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

x  
Mrs. Mary Clark  
536 West 51st Street  
Los Angeles, California 90037

Enclosures 6/5/68 and 6/10 releases re violence

GMR:WS:mg  
9

RECEIVED  
JUN 18 1968  
CENTRAL FILES



25 gm

AQ-C5

Los Angeles, Calif.  
June 7, 1968

To the President of the United States  
Dear Mr. Johnson,

For the first time in my life  
I sit down to write an official  
of our country. My heart is so  
heavy as I listen to the news  
of how our city officials are  
arguing about a man, who  
several hundred people actually  
saw shoot a man or 5 people,  
getting a fair trial.

How do we respect our laws  
now? How do we reduce crime  
when we are afraid to condemn?  
The criminal now has more  
rights than the innocent.  
This is why crime is so  
great. Why don't our leaders  
realize this and make our  
laws what they should be?

WHITE HOUSE  
MAIL ROOM

1968 JUN 14 PM 4 49

to the President of the United States  
Dear Mr. Johnson,  
I am the first time in my life  
I set down to write an official  
of our country. My heart is as  
heavy as I listen to the news  
of how our city officials are  
laughing about a man, who  
several hundred people actually  
saw about a man on a people  
getting a fair trial.  
How do we respect our laws  
now? How do we behave when  
we are afraid to condemn  
the criminal now how are  
rights than the innocent.  
This is why crime is as  
great. Why don't our leaders  
realize that our work our  
land what they should be?



I have two sons in our Army; one in Viet Nam for the second time and one who just served one year there. They have been taught to respect our laws all of their lives and now they don't know what is law!

Our country is losing all of its respect not only from other countries but from its own citizens. Maybe someone will eventually realize this before we destroy ourselves.

Just an average citizen  
Wondering

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Mary Clark  
536 W. 51<sup>st</sup> St.  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
90037

June 18, 1968

GENERAL

LE/JL3

JL3/Kennedy, Rott F.

Dear Mr. Polstein:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Peter M. Polstein  
23 Fieldstone Drive  
Hartsdale, New York

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)  
CFH:mfd



**GENERAL**

June 18, 1968

JL3/Kennedy, Rolf F.  
LE/JL3

Dear Mrs. March:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Emily March  
Rural Route 1  
Montgomery, New York

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:jlc

4

Comments on President R. Kennedy  
Mr. President:

ms  
28-69  
aut 6/18/69  
Aims at a Convention: Sir:

a new America?

Laws please! Now!

For the President to fear  
for his life? No new trends  
please!

Thank you:

Mrs. Emily Rand

R.F.D.#1

Montgomery: N.Y.

Thank Mr. McCarthy's aides for  
proper behavior at present.



Maybe LAW will cause  
different campaigns only.

No public views - just T.V

only + a guaranteed  
protection of life and family.

GENERAL

June 18, 1968

JL3/Kennedy R.F.

Dear Miss Brown:

On behalf of President Johnson, I should like to acknowledge your letter and thank you for writing. Your interest in letting him have your comments is appreciated and you may be sure they have been fully noted.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Miss Sandra E. <sup>x</sup>Brown  
Apartment 4  
3800 14th Street, NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20011

MD:mcv

6



8  
K-1  
MD  
A-217  
out 4/18/68  
HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON  
1867

3800-14th Street NW Apt #4  
Washington, D.C. 20011  
June 8, 1968

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I am not one of your ardent admirers but I am glad to say I will always remember and be proud of the message you delivered when the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy was struck down.

News media has made the public believe that there is a great rift between the Kennedys and the Johnsons. I am now a non-believer of this rift. I was extremely moved by your delivery. You seemed very moved and upset by the entire happening. I have never heard your words filled with such strong feelings or emotions.

I hope that as your Administration comes to an end, efforts, even though posthumous, will be made to make the dreams of the late Robert F. Kennedy and millions of other hopeful Americans very real.

Sincerely yours,  
Miss Sandra E. Brown

GENERAL

June 18, 1968

JL3/Kennedy, R.F.

Dear Mrs. Maxfield:

On behalf of President Johnson, I should like to acknowledge your letter and thank you for writing. Your interest in letting him have your comments is appreciated and you may be sure they have been fully noted.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. C. J. Maxfield  
13 Nolan Drive  
Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355

PATRICIA A. MAXFIELD  
X

MD:mcv

6





Mrs C.J. Mayfield  
13 Nolan Drive,  
Mahan, Pa.  
19355



27  
Kerry shooting  
+ comments  
in A-217  
act 6/18/mw

13 Nolan Drive,  
Mahan, Pa. 19355  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1968

Dear Mr. President,

This terrible tragedy,  
that happened this pastures-  
ty of our hours, is incredible!  
You speak of millions going  
to bed hungry, every night  
in America - why? -  
we spend that on every  
day missiles - going to the  
moon, and this is really  
'imperative'! Especially,  
since we can't solve things

2

On this earth. A rich nation  
that is 'poor' in a thousand  
ways. I can't believe that  
any man, be he Democratic,  
or Republican, does not  
have the biggest job on his  
hands, being President of  
these United States, and  
or would not run for  
such, unless he could  
serve his Country to the  
best of his ability - and  
for no other reason.

May I suggest you  
make - no that is not



will put <sup>3</sup> — that you keep  
the recording of Dione  
Warwick. "The Windows  
of the World", he completely  
alone and listen to these  
beautiful words, that are  
so meaningful — it is  
sad, but beautiful. Our  
second "Anthem" could  
be such a piece of "peace"  
of music.

As I am writing this,  
I have it playing — it could  
be 'good' for thought.

I hope and pray

that <sup>5</sup> Senator Kennedy will  
pull through ~~this~~ tragic  
happening, as certainly, all  
Americans, and the world  
can <sup>only</sup> wait and hope for.

Regretfully,

mrs. Patricia A. Mayfield  
(M.A.C.F.)



GENERAL

JL 3/Kennedy RF

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Milam:

President Johnson appreciates your thoughtfulness in writing at this time of tragedy.

It was good of you to let him have your comments, and he asked that I convey to you his thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Bettie Milam  
4756 El Campo Drive  
El Paso, Texas 79924

CF:abp

9

18

9

383 writing at this time  
of tragedy.  
... 6/18

4756 El Campo Dr  
El Paso, Texas  
June 9, 1968

Dear President Johnson -

I would imagine you shall receive many letters in view of past, recent events. My letter is to tell you I wish there were some way to help you bear the tremendous burdens of our times. Your face was etched in grief the other night when you spoke after Senator Kennedy's death. To me of us is bearing this alone, nor is his family. Millions of us feel the same lonely shocked feeling. All of us can, in his every day life, try to improve the tension which builds to violence. I know I have done some serious soul searching, and I shall do my best.

I know what this abrupt disruption of a family's life will do to you. Three years ago I wrote you to ask your help in achieving the transfer of my husband, a civil service worker in New Jersey, out here



to be near his parents in a time of serious family illness. With all the monumental problems you have, you took the time. We are happily settled here now, and each time I say a fervent thank God for our many blessings, I say an equally fervent thank God for you and your tremendous capacity for caring for others.

You and your family are in our thoughts and our prayers always. Please know always that you are not alone in your problems and decisions.

Sincerely

Bettie Milam. R.W.

**GENERAL**

June 18, 1968

JL3/Kennedy Polt F.

Dear Mrs. Brown:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

✓  
Mrs. Bob Brown  
1490 South Osceola  
Denver, Colorado 80219

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

CFH:tap

10



73 off  
En 69 6-18  
PA P

Dear President Johnson,

It is 6 AM in Denver, Colorado on the morning of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1968.

After watching them bury Robert Kennedy on television yesterday, and knowing all of America was saddened by his death, but then the News came on, and said that Sirhan Sirhan was going to enter on the Insanity Plea. This was real upsetting to me, and I'm sure it was very upsetting to all who heard it. What on earth has happened to the words "Liberty and Justice for all?" Do they mean nothing these days?

I believe that violence first got its good start when prayer was banned from public schools. This gave the children a feeling that God was no longer important, but that school, work and money was much more to their advantage. And if they grow up with this idea, Mr President, ~~they~~ are sure not going to change their mind when they Graduate at the age of 18.



I believe that Americas' first step should be "To Put a Prayer back in Public Schools"

All of these assassinations even make me feel Violent inside, and stop and think, something has to be done for this Country before its too late, if its not already too late.

I am for the Anti-Gun Bill if it will help America, if You can really enforce it and take them away from the Bad guys along with the Good.

People say to me "Why write a letter to The President, he may not even read it, and it will probably end up in a trash can."

If that is America today, where one modest citizen cannot try to help, then America is even worse off than I thought.

Put Prayer Back in the Public School, I'm sure it will help curb Racial Violence, War and the Rising Crime Rate.



Next, get a law in that will  
not let Killers off on the  
"Insanity Plea", and sign the  
Anti-Gun bill and enforce  
it. I pray that America gets to be  
a better place to live for all.

Very Sincerely,

Mrs Bob Brown  
1490 S. Asceola  
Denver, Colo. 80219

GENERAL

June 18, 1968

F07/Vietnam  
Meetings #3

JL3/Kennedy  
Robert 7.

Dear Mrs. Sorbo:

On behalf of President Johnson, I should like to acknowledge your telegram. Please be sure that your comments have been fully noted.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Alice Richards Sorbo  
10320 Almayo Avenue  
Los Angeles, California

CFH:jam



ac/BH  
GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy, Robert  
IM  
JL3  
HU4

①

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Holloway:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Marvin P. Holloway  
16 30th Street  
San Francisco, California 94110

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:tap

3

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

19  
ms  
2H-69  
6-18  
A  
Condolence Re R.K.  
Req. tight immigration laws  
con demonstration

Lyndon B. Johnson  
President of the United States  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr President:

I am writing to you at this time because I feel in view of the tradgedy that has just happened, that something very drastic should be done NOW to rid my country of undireables.

The congress and the senate are on trial for the unwanten slaying of Senator Kennedy, by reason of not tightening up on our immigration laws, it has and is too easy to get into our country.

Every one in washington ask what is happening to our country ? well this is self explanatory, STOP sweeping the dirt under rug, sweep it out the deer instead.

When you keep this kind of element from getting in and properly cleaning house, these tradedys will not happen.

Furthermore put and end to these so called demonstrations, this country lived a long while without them, where there mobs there are violence.

There is too much talk about the guns, what about crazy people with automiles, are you going to stop them also?

Stop nursing foreign nations, and bring our men back and clean house, do not ask these nations to give us respect, demand it we had this once, and I can not see why not now.

If washington wanted this nation to survive, they would close down these colleges and Universities to the young rebles that has infiltrated into them and causing trouble.

It should not make any difference who violates the law, they should be punished whether white, red, brown, yellow or green, whether whether or not catholic proudestant, jewish or anything else.



The sheister attornies that defend these criminals should be disbard to practice law,these men are making it impossible for our law inforcement to operate,and also making a mockery of our courts.

As far as constitutional rights are concerned,a felon or any felonious acts performed by any individual,automactically looses his rights under the constitution,only the law abiding citizen is protected,these sheisters practicing law and using our constitution to get felens leese is deplorable.

I say again the Senators and the congressmen and all of our se called law makers are to blame for Senator Kennedy's death,and they if they have the decency de something NOW to rectify the present way of thinking.

This is a wonderful country I knew because I am an american by four generations,and I am hart sick to think that a handful of individuals that centrol our destiny,are so neglectful in their judgement.

As I stated before,STOP sweeping the dirt under the rug, sweep <sup>out</sup> the deer,comb this nation for all ~~undesire-~~ undesire-ables,meaning all ailiens without papers of citizenship, send them back to where they belong,close up our deers to make it hard to enter,then,and only then,will they really appreciate the United States

Wishing to expess my deepest sympathy for the Kennedy family for their great less I am

sincerely yours

*Marvin P. Helloway*  
mr. Marvin P. Helloway

16-- 30th street

San Francisco

Californis

WV/BB

①

June 18, 1968

GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy  
Robert F.

FG795

JL3

Dear Mr. Dowd:

On behalf of President Johnson, I should like to acknowledge your letter. Please be sure that your comments have been fully noted.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Frank J. Dowd<sup>X</sup>  
2555 14th Avenue  
San Francisco, California

CFH:jam - 2

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES



1 soft  
pro 6/5/68  
Statement  
Can Comm to Study Violence  
R 2/18  
ack 6/18/68

2555 - 14th Avenue  
San Francisco, Calif.

June 6, 1968

→ President L. B. Johnson  
c/o The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

K2  
Having heard your comments on TV and radio June 5 to the effect that 200 million Americans are not responsible for the actions of this one man who perpetrated such a crime in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968, I wish you to know that I support your statement. It would appear that with now three assassinations a conspiracy is being perpetuated against the American public. How can the Attorney General dismiss this possibility so lightly? It is this sort of action that incurs the frustration of all good and decent Americans. Do we not have some control over what is to be investigated? Why do we need to have another commission to study the so-called ills of our society. A moral and legal law has been violated by one man - will we ever know why? Or For What Reason?

Yours truly,

*Frank J. Dowd*  
Frank J. Dowd

cc: Attorney General, U. S. Govt.  
Senator Kuchel, c/o U. S. Senate  
Representative Maillard, c/o House of Representatives.

Will you gentlemen ever see that we have answers to the above? What will you do?

GENERAL

LE/gh 3

gh 3/Kennedy, R.F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Sergeant Browne:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for giving him your thoughts on matters of critical concern to every American. He is very much aware of the distress that tragic events in this country may cause to you who are directly engaged in the defense of freedom.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read the enclosed copies of his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence.

The President hopes all citizens -- of all races and all religions -- will join in his firm resolve to deny violence its victory. Only by concerted and responsible effort can America fulfill its great promise of equal opportunity and justice for all men.

With the President's warm best wishes,

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Sergeant Donald F. Browne  
Hq. MACV (CSD) Box 101  
APO San Francisco 96222

Enclosures: 6/5 televised rms on shootig; and 6/10 rems to Commission

GMR:WS:lcc



GENERAL

DL3/FG2/Kennedy, John F. (2)  
DL3/King, Martin Luther  
DL3/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

DL3  
FG500

Dear Mr. Wright:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Alan B. Wright, Jr.  
Apartment A-32  
4751 Dalebridge Road  
Warrensville, Heights, Ohio 44128

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

CFH:oi

9

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

GENERAL

MAJ/O\*

JL3/Kennedy, L.F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Lloyd:

President Johnson has asked me to express his understanding and appreciation of your wish to honor together the memory of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The President has been deeply touched in these days of grief by the evidence, in messages such as yours, that the heart of America is compassionate and can respond to tragedy of this magnitude -- not only with a sense of irreparable loss, but also with vision and high purpose.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

*Outstanding Parents*

Mrs. Bettye Lloyd  
580 Saint Nicholas Avenue  
Apartment 4 L  
New York, New York 10030

WS:gbk



GENERAL

June 18, 1968

12/09  
JL3/FG2/Kennedy, John F. (2)  
JL3/King, Martin Luther  
JL3/Kennedy, Robert  
JL3  
FG500

Dear Mr. Wright:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Alan B. Wright, Jr.  
Apartment A-32  
4751 Dalebridge Road  
Warrensville, Heights, Ohio 44128

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

CFH:oi

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

27  
2/18  
AH-69

4751 Dalebridge Rd.  
Warrensville Heights, Ohio  
June 12, 1968

President Lyndon B. Johnson  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Johnson:

I am a soon-to-be college graduate from Northern Illinois University, in DeKalb Illinois. As a result of the events of the past few days, I have begun to examine how and why, in my opinion, there can be so much violence in the United States today. Everyone seems to say that we are a "sick" society of violent people. I do not believe this, as I know you do not. Obviously, something has to be done soon, though. We are a great people and a great country, but we cannot tolerate the murders of such distinguished Americans as former President John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, and now, Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Also, we cannot stand by and watch countless other United States citizens killed in the same manner!

I admit that a strict gun control law will, most likely, curb this problem considerably. But, I don't think that this is playing a major role in the causes of these murders. I believe that it is due to a lack of an effective court system to deal with the people that commit these crimes. This is illustrated in the following two examples, where a man has murdered one or more people. The first deals with Lee H. Oswald, the alleged killer of President John F. Kennedy. This man was proved beyond a doubt to be at least one of the people who committed the crime. Then another man named Jack Ruby murdered Oswald. Now, my point is, that if Ruby had not



killed Oswald and if Ruby had not died in jail, that they would both still be alive and possibly free to walk our streets. This is the way it would have been, in our present system of court procedure.

My second example concerns Richard Speck, who was also proved beyond a doubt to have murdered eight nurses in Chicago. This man is still alive, and as I understand it, will remain so for some time. I am sorry to say that this will probably also be the outcome of the trials of Dr. King and Senator Kennedy's killers. Our lawyers advise these people of their constitutional rights and then say that if they admit anything, it can be used as evidence against them. Obviously, no one is going to say anything against himself, if a lawyer tells him this! What is wrong with us? Have we all gone crazy? Why in the name of decency can someone get away with this type of activity? It is no wonder that so many people commit crimes: they know that they won't be put in the electric chair, and that most likely, they will get off in a few years!

The sag in our system of laws is also seen in the doctor when he attempts to treat a person who has been seriously injured in a traffic accident. This doctor, who is trying to do nothing but save an innocent life, can be sued for all he has if anything goes wrong with the person who is injured. This is unbelievable, that this can occur in America!

Until our present system is changed to provide and enforce the elimination of killers and murderers from our country, the present crime rate will continue. Also, we should rid our laws of the clause which mentions that the accused should

not admit anything because it could be used as evidence against him. Why should a murderer be given a chance to protect his "rights" when he is known to have committed the crime in the first place? It should be the other way around. Everything possible should be found out in order to secure a complete case against the accused. If our laws do not get tougher in these cases, some people will commit murders just to become well known in our nation!

Our law and court system is in sad shape. We are not violent because we are a "sick" people. We are violent because criminals are not treated like criminals and are given rights which enables them to survive. All we do is sit around and say "How can this happen in America?" Well, it is going to continue this way until our laws are changed or until our lawyers stop defending convicted criminals. I would appreciate your explanation to me, Sir, as to why no one realizes or says anything in public, about what I have just mentioned. We have just got to make it rough on law-breakers. The success of our country stands on this premise.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration with my views. I would appreciate any comments you might have on these matters.

Sincerely yours,  
*Alan B. Wright Jr.*  
Alan B. Wright, Jr.



GENERAL

①  
JL3/Kennedy,  
Robert F.  
LE/JL3

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Southerland:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. M. C. <sup>X</sup>Southerland  
President  
X Virginia Seminary and College  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24501

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

CFH:oi

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

15  
art  
*Virginia Seminary and College*

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501 • TELEPHONE 845-7331 • OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



June 6, 1968

st-69  
H  
Open Letter

ON THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY

President Lyndon B. Johnson  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

The Honorable President Johnson:

The Faculty and Administration of Virginia Seminary and College have been greatly disturbed as well as saddened by the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The tragedy of American society is monumental. Good people who project programs for the saving of our nation are continually destroyed.

In the assassination of Senator Kennedy some of our greatest ideas have been crushed. Our hopes and desires have been greatly distorted. Nevertheless, the fact that he built our hopes to such a high degree of expectation has given us a value beyond measure and a new hope has now dawned that God will touch another heart to do the noble work which Senator Kennedy invisioned.

You have the responsibility to lead the American people by legislation and implementation into a new era of law and order. You have our support in projecting necessary measures to strengthen the moral fabric of our society. It is also my conviction that the American people, many of whom have armed themselves with weapons of death and destruction, need to witness a rearmament of moral courage and fortitude.

Sincerely yours,

*M. C. Southerland*  
M. C. Southerland, President

jm



Virginia Seminary and College

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501 • TELEPHONE 525-1111 • OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE  
MAIL ROOM

June 6, 1968

1968 JUN 7 AM 11 30

Open letter

ON THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY

President Lyndon B. Johnson  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

The Honorable President Johnson:

The Faculty and Administration of Virginia Seminary and College have been greatly disturbed as well as saddened by the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The tragedy of American society is monumental. Good people who protect programs for the saving of our nation are continually destroyed.

In the assassination of Senator Kennedy some of our greatest ideas have been crushed. Our hopes and desires have been greatly distorted. Nevertheless, the fact that he built our hopes to such a high degree of expectation has given us a value beyond measure and a new hope has now dawned that God will touch another heart to do the noble work which Senator Kennedy envisioned.

You have the responsibility to lead the American people by legislation and inspiration into a new era of law and order. You have our support in protecting necessary measures to strengthen the moral fabric of our society. It is also my conviction that the American people, many of whom have armed themselves with weapons of death and destruction, need to witness a rearmament of moral courage and fortitude.

Sincerely yours,

M. C. Southernland  
M. C. Southernland, President

jm

inc/EF

GENERAL

TL3/Kennedy,  
Robert F.

RM 2  
TL3

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Simkins:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

X  
Mrs. Everett Simkins  
92 Sherri Drive  
Security, Colorado 80911

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:tap

3



19 S  
SH-69

6-18  
J

Communist assassinations of R.K.  
Religious Comments  
Concerned over condition

Mrs. Everett Shinkins  
92 Sherrie Dr.  
Security, Colo. 80911  
June 6, 1968

President Lyndon B. Johnson  
Vice President Hubert H. Humphries  
Capitol Building  
Washington D. C.

Dear Pres. Johnson & Vice Pres. Humphries,

I don't know if this will reach you or be handled by your secretaries. I don't know that I am even worthy to even try to write to anyone like you or not. I am only a housewife and mother of five children. We live only from day to day depending on God to provide the needs for that day. I'm not saying we ~~are~~ among the poverty stricken people of our nation, but we don't have much. Thanks to God we don't go hungry and we keep clothed. I'm only saying these things to show that I don't feel worthy to write what's on my heart. However, with God's help I shall try and let God use it as He wishes.

Senator Kennedy's death seems to be stirring people in many ways. I can't say that I was a Kennedy supporter, for I wasn't. To me it is just a warning from God. How many more <sup>warnings</sup> is our country going to have to have before we return to God. It is a tragedy to our country and now a family of almost eleven is without a father. All his millions cannot replace him in the lives of these children. Children need their fathers whether rich or poor. My heart goes out to them in their loss.

I'm afraid circumstances prevented us from registering in the last election. I am praying we will not lose



that opportunity this time. I will be very frank to admit that we have up to this time felt that we have had a very poor choice of candidates to choose from. Maybe not politically, ~~but~~ but there have been so few God fearing men to stand up for our country and to trust God to guide them in their duties which are so great in leading a nation.

Please don't misunderstand me. I do not believe in mixing religion and politics. I do believe a man's life ought to speak out by his actions his trust in God. His life ought to be such that all his people know without him saying a word religiously that he trusts God and is letting God show him the way and is helping him in his decisions. If late you seem to ~~show~~ showing more evidence in this direction.

To me it is so very sad to see the things that are happening in our nation. Race riots, hippies, drugs, addictions, crime on the increase, our youths ~~are~~ so confused and dissatisfied, even frightened. I'm afraid our forefathers would be terribly disappointed in our nation should they come back today. Sure we've material gains and educational program that are among the highest in the world. We've been one of the richest countries in the world. Today it grows harder and harder to keep your heads above water. "We were advised 2 yrs ago to take bankruptcy. We refused, with God's help we are fighting with all we have to beat it and still feed and clothe our family. We would've gone down long ago if God hadn't been helping ~~us~~ so much. We have found since that our relatives and friends are having their struggles, too."

Our nation was founded on religious freedom. God fearing men established this great country.



and started it on its way, but they did not do it alone. Their faith in God and His guidance made this a land that all the people of the world looked up to and came to for refuge. Today the world is losing respect for us. Our country is in turmoil within.

Every nation that has ever been destroyed by communism has been destroyed from within - not without. They are gaining such a foothold within our country today it is unbelievable. Only God can save our nation (Not a religion - but God). If you've spent any time studying your Bible and the history of Israel you can't fail to see great parallels to our country. Whenever Israel fell away from God they met with tremendous defeats and trials. I'm sure it is not too late for our nation if they will return to God now.

I suppose I sound ~~like~~ <sup>like</sup> a religious fanatic, but I'm not really. I'm an American whose first must serve God then my country. I'm a Christian and as such I owe my country my prayers and whatever little I can do to help it. I feel very strongly that if America would return to God, great things could happen to us. We could again become the nation our forefathers hoped for.

I believe we need Dr. Graham to lead our country in greater revivals than ever before. I think we need him as much or more than the rest of the world now as never before. "Physician, heal thyself. . . ." Luke 4: 23 b. Our country needs spiritual healing. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then shall I hear from heaven, and



forgive their sin, and <sup>heal</sup> ~~heal~~ their land." II Chronicles 7:14. I truly believe this. I think Billy Graham and his team members should be asked to begin to lead in such an effort to return America to God. When Israel sinned, God sent the Kings to their kings and to their prophets to be restored to His favor.

If I'm a fanatic because I feel this way, I guess I shall have to be a fanatic. I surely do pray that God will guide you in each thing you have to do Pres. Johnson, and that He leads you Mr. Humphries as you campaign for the job as our next President. It is a tremendous responsibility. I should not want to trade places with you at all, but surely want to do anything I can to make your job easier. (although I don't know anyway I can expect to pray for you. I am too aware that a housewife isn't much help to the president & vice president of her nation!).

May God richly bless you and lead you according to His will in bringing this nation to its knees before God.

Sincerely (a child of God first & fellow American  
next)  
Mrs. Everett Linkins



Mr/

June 18, 1968

GENERAL  
LE/JL3  
F6795  
JL3/Kennedy,  
Robert F.

①

Dear Mr. Crane:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Alan<sup>X</sup> Crane  
2424 South Ashland Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)  
CFH:mfd

7

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
RECORDS FILES

cc/EF  
GENERAL

10  
JL3/Kennedy, Robert  
JL3  
OUT-1

June 18, 1968

Dear Father Kauffman:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

The Reverend Thomas C. Kauffman, O.S.F.S.  
X Salesian High School  
60 Harper Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

DFP:tap  
5

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES





Comment on RFK assassination  
(Suggests W.H. Conf. on television programming)

# SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

60 HARPER AVENUE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

VA. 2-4114

TR. 3-2446

June 5, 1968

Lyndon B. Johnson  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

This is another sorrowful day in the unfolding history of our great Country. Sorrowful because presidential candidate Robert Kennedy has been shot, but, perhaps, more sorrowful because we now have a further symptom of the ill state of American psychological health. I join you in your concern for the spirit of violence which prevails in this Country, indeed in the whole world, today.

In spite of all the instances of violence in our recent history, and in spite of many warnings from concerned, well trained, intelligent people, we continue to imbue the citizens of the United States with the spirit of violence. In short, we have trained the people of our country to act violently; they are acting violently; we must begin to train our people to act humanely.

I urge you to exert your influence to cause our presently most effective educational medium, television, to stop inculcating violence as a way of life in our people. Influence the television industry, even more, to project positive values; as: humane ideals, kindness, peace-making. Suggest an immediate White House Conference of all leaders in the Television Industry to cause these men to consider the national interests as the most important factor in their programming procedures.

May God bless you, Mr. President.

Respectfully yours,

*Thomas C. Kauffman, O.F.S.*  
(Rev.) Thomas C. Kauffman, O.S.F.S.

GENERAL

LE/JL3

June 18, 1968

JL3/Kennedy, Robert F.

Dear Mr. Everett:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you, Mr. Steven Jordan and Mr. Jerome Brem for your telegram at this time of terrible sorrow. In his words:

"The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death cast a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world."

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. Time and again he has called upon Congress to enact genuinely effective gun control legislation. You may want to read in full his message of June 6 to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The enclosed copy comes to you with the President's appreciation for your interest -- and his hope for your active support in this urgent cause.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. James Everett  
Tufts University  
Medford  
Boston, Massachusetts

Enclosure: ltr from Pres to Speaker of House and Pres of Senate of June 6.

AVB:jms



GENERAL

LE/JL3

JL3/Kennedy,  
Robert F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Deaton:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Howard A. Deaton  
427 Eichelberger  
St. Louis, Missouri 63111

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

WS:tap

June 18, 1968

**GENERAL**

JL3/Kennedy  
RKF  
LE/JL3

Dear Mr. Marlin:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow. In his words:

"The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death cast a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world."

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. Time and again he has called upon Congress to enact genuinely effective gun control legislation. You may want to read in full his message of June 6 to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The enclosed copy comes to you with the President's appreciation for your interest -- and his hope for your active support in this urgent cause.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

X  
Mr. Allan R. Marlin  
2000 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, New York 13210

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosure: (President's June 6, 1968 letter to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate)

DFP:oi

8



DDO  
S H 67  
Allan R. Martin  
2000 E. Genesee Street  
Syracuse, New York 13210

To the editor of the Post Standard:

For years I have read completely the columns of Drew Pearson, Inez Robb, Joseph Alsop, John Chamberlain and many others that appear frequently in the Post Standard.

I have noticed that since Robert F. Kennedy began his campaign for president, the first three aforementioned columnists, have persistently made many uncomplimentary remarks about our murdered presidential aspirant.

The fact that Sirhan B. Sirhan, a native of Jordan, who was captured and is now accused of the murder of the successful candidate in California, had "Hate Kennedy" notes in his possession, when arrested, makes me wonder if he may not have been inspired by what he had read in these syndicated columns.

Granted these authors had every right to their own opinions, regarding the qualifications of a presidential candidate, they should all look twice, in their future columns, before expressing themselves in Daily newspapers, now that tragedy has again struck the Kennedy Family.

They could have been responsible, in part, for the hatred developed by the accused killer, but I hope not.

After reading today's (June 6) Lead editorial in your paper, plus Drew Pearson column, also in today's issue entitled "Control of guns still rejected", I believe a Federal Gun Control Law should be enacted immediately, that would require within 90 days, the registration of every hand gun, rifle, shotgun, sub-machine gun owned by every citizen and police officer in the U.S.A. with penalties of no less than 5 years imprisonment anyone failing to comply with the law, if caught using any kind of gun, rifle etc. (for any purpose, hunting included) without proof of registration.

The law should also include a mandatory 5 year prison sentence for anyone caught carrying a switch-blade knife or any other form of concealed lethal weapon and 10 years imprisonment for any one convicted of commission of a crime, using such weapons.

I know the National Rifle Association and other sportsmen's groups will disagree with me, but to curb our present lawlessness and violence, it is necessary to inconvenience the legitimate owners of weapons, to trap the illegal owners.

I cannot understand why any organization should object to this type of law and I expect to pay a small registration fee, not to exceed \$1.00 to help pay for cost of administrating this law, so Americans can feel safe to walk the streets in our cities.

I hereby volunteer to reveal I own a 25 caliber rifle of Italian make, purchased locally in a discount store as war surplus, a few years ago that bears the serial number 1936 XIV Eretta Cardone No. D 53373. I also purchased 25 cartridges, have fired one and have 24 left.

How about the rest of the legitimate owners revealing the number of weapons and serial numbers of the guns they own, the others will eventually be caught, if Congress will get busy on the number one legislation we need immediately.

Copy to Congressman Hanley  
Copy to President Johnson

Allan R. Martin Sr.  
2000 E. Genesee St  
Syracuse N.Y. 13210  
June 6 1968

June 18, 1968

GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy Rott  
F.

Dear Mr. Miller:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Thomas W. Miller  
3251 Dearborn  
Sioux City, Iowa 51103

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures  
: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:jlc

4



" Comment on RFK assassination

child?

und  
2H-69<sup>ack</sup> 6/18 JRL

3251 Dearborn  
Sioux City, Iowa  
June 7, 1968

The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I wonder why people do  
things like killing people. It looks  
like you can't stop people  
from killing. There's know way  
from knowing who is a killer are  
you will be killed.

Sincerely Yours  
Thomas W. Miller.

GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy Rch F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Payne:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Edwin B. <sup>X</sup>Payne  
1646 Sherman Street, SE.  
East Grand Rapids, Michigan

Mary Payne  
<sup>X</sup>

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

SM:tap

10

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES



Mrs. Edwin B. Payne  
1646 Sherman St. S.E.  
E. Grand Rapids, Mich.

8 Sm Sh-69 June 5, 1968  
My dear President -

(I hope as I write this letter that Pres. Johnson at least hears about it - and at this time I wish that millions of other mothers from all over this America would write.)

I am from the mid-west a mother of 6 children - and only God knows what kind of a world I have brought these 6 children into. But Mr. Johnson - I feel you could do much too alleviate some of the terrible things that are happening in one of the greatest countries in the world. Please, please Mr. Johnson - I call on you and the Holy Spirit to make this country right again. I as a simple mother



feel I have to take care  
of my own family when  
they are troubled and you  
as the Father (so to speak)  
of our country much take  
care of our country. I feel  
the time has come to  
quit reaching out to help  
all our neighbors - we have  
enough trouble right here  
in our own family.

Bobby Kennedy was shot to-  
day - he was not my Candidate  
for Pres. but he was my  
brother - he was our family  
wasn't he Mr. President?  
God - pray he pulls through.

All I ask - is we rid  
this country (I did not say  
the world) of violence,  
communist control - what let's  
face it Pres. Johnson - we  
are being controlled by something  
more powerful than our

wonderful American standards.  
We are being taken over -  
you know it. I know it.  
Pres. Jack Kennedy's death was  
not by just some nut - Martin  
Luther King's was not by some  
kook - nor last night Kennedy's  
was not just a spur of the  
moment thing - we are being  
invaded and I think we all  
know it.

Please Mr. Johnson - Call on  
all your powers - I love you  
I trust you and right now  
I and millions of Mothers  
are depending upon you.

I ~~was~~ didn't feel at one  
time I trusted Pres. De Gaulle  
but he didn't fool around.  
Last week did he?

Maybe we should get tough!  
Before it's too late. They won't  
have too drop a bomb on  
America - they will just kill  
all our leaders and that  
should throw the country into



have.

I pray for you in all  
my masses Mr. President.

I admire you and my  
heart goes out to you.

I know your burden has  
been terribly hard. But  
let's get busy and turn  
the steer off before it  
turns.

A Mother who loves  
her American family -

Your dear friend  
(Lw) Mrs. Edwin B. Payne  
(Mary)

gh  
GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy, Robert F.  
LE/JL3

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Giles:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. and Mrs. James Giles<sup>+</sup>  
405 East Shawnee  
Paola, Kansas 66071

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:mpa  
4

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES



27-

Mr. J. L.

m. d.  
24-69  
10/1/70

June 7, 1968,

Paola, Kansas. 66071

Dear Mr. President;

Please accept our heart-felt sympathy in our nations sorrow at the loss of another great leader, Robert F. Kennedy.

Please implore our elected representatives to pass an arm law that can not be recinded by the Supreme Court, that will protect the individual in front of the gun as well as the individual behind the gun, thus protecting the individual as our existing laws demand and above all to spare Mrs. Rose Kennedy her last and remaining son. Please do not let our beloved Democracy defeat itself!

Yours Very Truly,

Mr. and Mrs. James Giles

405 E. Shawnee,

Paola, Kansas. 66071

gh  
GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy, Robert F.  
LE/JL3

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Guidry:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Carlton L. Guidry<sup>x</sup>  
Route 4, Box 287  
Huntsville, Texas 77340

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

CF:map

4

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES



18  
ack  
6/11/68  
map  
9  
SH-69  
June 10, 1968

President Lyndon B. Johnson  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

During the last six years, since Oxford, Mississippi, I have become increasingly concerned about our nation's welfare. Robert Kennedy's assassination has left me, as I hope it has left all Americans, in an extremely distressed state. I have thought long and hard these last five days and I wish to convey some of these thoughts to you.

I know that you advocate strong gun laws but I want to implore you to do all that is possible to get those laws through the two houses. It appears to me that the National Rifle Association, through its lobby, is about to the point where it will take the legislative prerogative away from the legislature.

Secondly, I want to express my concern about some of the Supreme Court decisions regarding criminal codes. It is tragic irony that two days before Senator Kennedy was shot, the Court made a decision that probably will make it impossible to convict and penalize his killer. That decision was only one of several that have been made that gives the minority criminal the advantage over the majority citizen. A decision of the Supreme Court is, of course, the law of the land but is there not some way that the executive and/or the legislative branch can constitutionally reverse the dangerous trend that has been set by the court? There can be only one result if the present trend continues-the vigilante committee. This must not come to pass, for if it does, our nation will cease to exist. Anarchy almost rules now but if vigilantism appears on a national scale, what we have seen now cannot compare to what we will see.

While I am writing, I would like to express my opinion on another matter also. Ever since your March 31 announcement, I have been distressed over your intention not to seek the nomination. Perhaps I can best express my feelings on that by using the symbolization of another time. When I was eleven, in 1944, FDR's campaign slogan was, "Don't change horses in mid-stream". Now, if you will permit a symbolization that is not meant to be offensive, the horse is requesting a replacement to carry the rider on across the stream.

Very truly yours,

Carlton L. Guidry

Carlton L. Guidry

Rt. 4, Box 287  
Huntsville, Texas 77340

*no/✓*

The White House  
Washington

1968 JUN 18 AM 5 19

WA006 NL PD

CINCINNATI OHIO 17

WHITNEY SHOEMAKER, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER. YOU CAN NOT EXPECT LAW

ABIDING CITIZENS TO GIVE UP THEIR FIREARMS GUARANTEED BY THE

3 CONSTITUTION AND LET THE CRIMINALS KEEP THEIRS. YOU MUST ATTACK

THE PROBLEMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL I AM SENDING YOU TWO ARTICLES FROM OUR

ENQUIRER WRITTEN BY ALLEN HOWARD. PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR UNDIVIDED

2 ATTENTION. I AM NOT MISS ELEANOR X KERR I AM MRS ELYNOR X KERR GEORGE

*File*  
*GENERAL*  
*JL3/Kennedy,*  
*Robert F.*  
*LE/JL3*

RECEIVED  
JUN 21 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

FORM 0005 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A.



M HARRISON'S DAUGHTER AND I LIVE IN THE COLORED  
NEIGHBORHOOD

MRS ELYNOR KERR KERR REALTY.

3

2

FORM QDO5 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A.

0  
June 13, 1968

GENERAL

JL3/R Kennedy,  
Robert F.

mc  
Dear Miss Kerr:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your telegram at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged Congress to enact his Crime Control and Safe Streets proposals. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Miss Eleanor H. X Kerr  
6309 Elwynne Drive  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Enclosures (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

7



ag  
SH-69 Ack 6/13  
ms

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| The White House<br>Washington |         |
| 1968 JUN 6                    | AM 5 18 |

WA122 PDB 3 EXTRA

(CINCINNATI OHIO) 5 308P EDT

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

THIS IS A DISGRACE WHEN ANY MAN IN UNITED STATES CANNOT STAND  
UP AND SAY WHAT HE HAS TO SAY WITHOUT BEING SHOT DOWN ITS TIME

<sup>3</sup> YOU TOOK A STAND FOR LAW AND ORDER

(Mrs ELEANOR HARRISON KERR) (6309 ELWYNNE DR.)

| Name        | Date    |
|-------------|---------|
| Mr. Shalman | 6-18-68 |
|             |         |
|             |         |
|             |         |
|             |         |
|             |         |
|             |         |

WAISS PDB 3 EXTRA

CINCINNATI OHIO 5 308P EDT

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

THIS IS A DISGRACE WHEN ANY MAN IN UNITED STATES CANNOT STAND  
UP AND SAY WHAT HE HAS TO SAY WITHOUT BEING SHOT DOWN ITS TIME  
YOU TOOK A STAND FOR LAW AND ORDER  
ELEANOR HARRISON KERR (6309 ELWYNNE DR.)



GENERAL

LE/L3

JL3/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Willey:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Arthur L. Willey  
225 North Seventh Street  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:tap

GENERAL

LE/L3

JL3/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Moore:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Thomas Moore  
1007 Alabama Street  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)  
CFH:i



GENERAL

LE/J23

June 18, 1968

J23/Kennedy Robt F.

Dear Mrs. Calabrese:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Victor Calabrese  
7458 West Ardmore  
Chicago, Illinois

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:map

**GENERAL**

June 18, 1968

LE/J23

J23/Kennedy Robert F.

Dear Miss Mainemer:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow. In his words:

"The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death cast a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world."

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. Time and again he has called upon Congress to enact genuinely effective gun control legislation. You may want to read in full his message of June 6 to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The enclosed copy comes to you with the President's appreciation for your interest -- and his hope for your active support in this urgent cause.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Miss Anne-Marie Mainemer  
312 Dean Road  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

Enclosure: (President's June 6, 1968 letter to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate)

DFP:oi



GENERAL

June 18, 1968

LE/JL3

JL3/Kennedy R. H. F.

Dear Mrs. Lawrence:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow. In his words:

"The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death cast a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world."

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. Time and again he has called upon Congress to enact genuinely effective gun control legislation. You may want to read in full his message of June 6 to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The enclosed copy comes to you with the President's appreciation for your interest -- and his hope for your active support in this urgent cause.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Andrew Lawrence  
43 Dana Street  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Enclosure: (President's June 6, 1968 letter to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate)

DFP:oi

GENERAL

LE/JL3

June 18, 1968

JL3/Kennedy Rpt F.

Dear Dr. Gardner:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Dr. John U. Gardner  
139 Orchard Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Enclosures  
: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks  
to commission)  
DFP:jlc



GENERAL

June 18, 1968

LE/JL3

JL3/Kennedy Robt F.

Dear Mrs. Sutton:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. C. D. Sutton  
5311 Boyd Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68104

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

CFH:tap

GENERAL

June 18, 1968

LE/JL3

JL3/Kennedy Robert F.

Dear Miss Delacoma:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Miss Wynne Delacoma  
1443 Thome Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60626

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

CMF:tap



12/

GENERAL  
JL3/Kennedy, Robert  
JL6  
JL6-1  
PR2/ST5

June 18, 1968

Dear Boys and Girls:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow. In his words:

"The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death cast a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world."

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. Time and again he has called upon Congress to enact genuinely effective gun control legislation. You may want to read in full his message of June 6 to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The enclosed copy comes to you with the President's appreciation for your interest -- and his hope for your active support in this urgent cause.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Pupils of Mrs. Dickson's Fifth Grade Class  
xMargaret Hedrick School  
550 Waterman  
El Centro, California 92243

Enclosure: (President's June 6, 1968 letter to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate)

LAS:ms  
/

RECEIVED  
JUN 21 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Jan 30 Ltr

5H-67

ack 4/18/68  
Dear Boys & Girls

REC'D JUN 10 '68

550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I am from the fifth grade  
and I am writing about the  
problems our country is  
having.

I believe that we,  
our country should have  
more respect for our  
countries police. I heard  
on T.V. people blaming  
the police for Kennedy's  
being shot and not being  
there during the  
assassination.

I should think  
nobody would bail the  
man who shot  
Kennedy out of jail.  
I believe this because  
someone is surely  
going to try and kill the



named man. If anyone does  
kill him out that  
person is surely going  
to get in the same  
trouble.

I was wishing  
that Senator Kennedy  
would pull through  
and live. But his  
death has come and  
I'm surely hoping that  
no more tragedy comes  
to the Kennedys.

His family is "so rich,  
yet so poor!"

I also want  
a president just like  
you. I would also  
want you to protect  
McCarthy, Humphrey, and  
every other candidate.

Sincerely, Sonia S. Wong  
5<sup>th</sup> grade.

550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I am concerned about the assassination of Senator Kennedy. I think that Sirhan Sirhan should be charged with third degree murder and five charges of attempted murder. I think there should be more secret service men at the doors to check for guns.

Very truly yours,  
Robert Wheeler  
Room 5



550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I am very concerned about the assassination of Senator Kennedy. I am going to tell you what I think about this. I think that Senator Kennedy took a big risk of not having much protection. You made a wise decision putting secret service men near all of the candidates. What is happening to our nation. I also feel sorry for the Kennedy family.

Sincerely,

Lance Dorman  
5th Grade

550 Waterman  
EL CENTRO Calif.

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

We're concerned about the assassination of Senator Kennedy. I personally think there shouldn't be any firearms unless they have proper identification like the police or the secret service. Also they should be trusted or take the gun away. Important public gatherings should be well guarded. If they have some identification or a permission card they are able to enter. I feel bad about the assassination and the family.

Sincerely yours,

Gabriel Leyvas.



550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear sir,

I am very concerned about the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. I hear that his assassin, Serhan Serhan, came in from the kitchen door. The problem that I think should be solved is that every door of a gathering place should be guarded at all times, so that nobody else comes in. That comes to another problem: The people who come to the gathering must be checked to see if any arms might be on them. If any, the police officers should take them away and have a talk with the people who had them on why, for any reason they would have them. Policemen must have an identification card to show that they are policemen. That goes for the rest of the people too.

Give my regards to the Kennedy family.

Sincerely Yours,  
Dean Anderson

550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

There is hate in the  
world. But does there have  
to be hate with a gun? I  
always about that when I think  
of the Kennedys. Please answer  
me.

Yours truly,  
Marilyn  
Mac Arthur

P. S. Here is my address, 160  
Solano dr, El Centro, Calif. 92243  
Your house is very pretty



550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

When Kennedy's assassination was heard on T.V. you knew how many people loved him. I think the man who shot Kennedy should not have a bail because people who murder should be sentenced for life. Well it wouldn't matter because the people would get him anyway. I think Kennedy was very brave because he didn't have secret service agents.

Sincerely yours,  
David Thomas  
Room 5

550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I'm very concerned about the laws of firearms. I think the a man or a woman should have a license to own a firearm.

I'm also concerned about the respect for our policemen. Some people think that policemen don't try to help with crimes.

Yours truly,  
George Legakes



550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

We're concerned about the assassination  
of Senator Kennedy

We feel very sorry for his family  
They probably feel bad having no  
father. I think that Senator

Kennedy was going to be a good  
President. When there is a public  
gatherings. I feel that they should  
have guards around the place,  
like if you're in the White  
House you should have the house  
guarded.

Yours truly  
Rosemarie Ojeda.

550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

I'm concerned about  
the assassination of Sen. Kennedy. Here is a list  
of things I'm concerned about:

1. The judicial system should  
be stricter.
2. Stricter laws for obtaining  
firearms
3. Proper identification be-  
fore entering important  
public gatherings.
4. And respect for police  
officers.



Kim sorry I took up  
some of your time but I  
think the country should know  
what other people want to say.

Your very truly  
Karen Howell  
5<sup>th</sup> grade Room 5

550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

Our fifth grade class is very concerned about the assassination of Senator Kennedy. I thought that the gun makers could stamp a number on the gun and bullet so when somebody is shot they can take the bullet out and find the number.

Yours Truly  
Susan Stall



550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

My 5th grade class and I were talking about the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy. We thought the judicial system should be stricture, stricture laws obtaining firearms, important gatherings, and respect for police.

Yours truly  
Karen Pennington

550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

We're concerned about the assassination of Senator Kennedy. We think that there should be proper identification before entering important public gatherings when someone special is there. You must have a ticket or a pass or identification that you can get into the gathering or meeting.

The president or vicepresident should have a secret service man or senator.

Your truly  
Sean Swarthout



550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

I have been thinking about  
Senator Kennedy:

I think that the people  
should be a little bit  
nicer to all of the police-  
man.

I also think that the  
people in the store's should  
not give getting in trouble  
a lot.

I fill very bad for the  
Kennedy family.

Very truly yours,  
Cindy Ann Hust  
Grade 5,

550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

we're concerned about the assassination  
of Senator Kennedy. We feel very badly about  
the whole thing. We feel that everyone  
who has a gun must have a license and  
should have a test before using the weapon.  
The violence that happened caused much  
eruption in the hotel. I hope you will help  
the nations troubles.

Thank you  
sincerely yours  
Brian Timney



Michael Gibbs  
1584 Holt El Centro  
Calif. June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

I'm concerned about the  
assassination of Senator Kennedy.  
I was wondering if we could  
improve the nation by these  
things, judicial system should  
be stricter, stricter laws for  
obtaining firearms, proper  
identification before entering  
important public gatherings,  
respect for police. I hope some  
of these things might improve our  
country.

Very truly yours,  
Michael Gibbs

550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif  
June 6 1964

President Johnson  
Washington

Dear Sir

Were concerned about  
assassination of Sen. Kennedy.  
I think our judicial system  
should be stricter and better  
laws.

And I think we should have  
more respect for our police-  
men,

Yours Very Truly  
Lee Ann Briggeli  
5 grade



550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I am very concerned  
about the death of  
Senator Kennedy.

I know he was a very,  
very good American.  
But I am very con-  
cerned about how  
people respect our po-  
lice. I think that our  
fifty states need a strict  
rule about people who  
do not except and respect  
our police force.

Sincerely,

Jenni-Lynn Stacy  
5<sup>th</sup> grader

550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

Our fifth grade class has been very concerned about Senator Kennedy's assassination. We thought it was almost incredible to have such violence. Our class thinks there needs to be a change in laws. To stop assassinations in public places, we think proper identification before entering important public gatherings would be the proper thing to have done. We have discussed this matter because we know how badly his family must feel, and we feel very badly about the assassination.

Sincerely yours,  
Connie Wood



550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

We're very concerned about the assassination of Senator Kennedy. I think all judicial systems should be stricter. We should have harder punishments. I think we should scare people into stopping all this killing.

Yours Truly  
Pat Knupp

P.S. I feel very bad for the Kennedy folks.

550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear sir:

Our class is concerned about the death of Robert Kennedy. It seems like if Robert Kennedy was willing to run for president he shouldn't be assassinated. I think the judicial system should be stricter. The saying that applies to the Kennedy family is, "so rich, yet so poor." There have been many tragedies in the Kennedy family. I give my deepest sympathy to the Kennedy family.

Sincerely,  
Randy Hatton  
5<sup>th</sup> grade



550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

I am concerned about the  
assassination of Robert Kennedy.

So I think that guns  
should only be given to people  
with good records.

I also think that all  
entrances should be guarded  
at gatherings like the one  
in Los Angeles, Tuesday,  
June 4, 1968.

Yours Truly,  
Scott Spencer

550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif,  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

I think that the judicial system should be stricter. The man that shot Kennedy should be put to death. And before anyone comes into an important public gathering they should have proper identification. And should be checked for guns and other weapons. This should be done to stop killings.

Yours truly,  
Linda Wolfe



550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I am deeply concerned about our countries problems. One of things I want mention is about that irrational person who assassinated Senator Kennedy. I feel we should not (lend out) guns to irresponsible people. I don't feel that the man who assassinated Kennedy was part of a conspiracy. I want to at this time, to express my feelings toward the Kennedy family. The Kennedy Family have been through a lot. I especially want to express my feelings to Mrs. Robert Kennedy. I think your ex-husband was a great man.

Sincerely,  
John Turnock  
Hedrick School

5501 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir...

I think that you should be more specific about laws and do some more about people who shoot other people. I think about the President all the time, And hope there will be someone like you again.

Yours truly,  
Lori Lea Barrett  
5th grad class



550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

We're concerned about the assassination of Senator Kennedy. I personally don't think anyone should be aloud in a public gathering without being checked for a gun. Also the judicial systym should be greater because my father told me about a man who stole some bread and was put in jail, and a man who stole a car, was let go. We feel terribly bad for his family. I think there should be a stricter law about guns and who gets them. We know it must be hard to run the U.S. but to keep it running I think we should have stricter laws.

Yours truly,  
Nancy Hackenberger

550 Waterman  
El Centro, Calif  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir

We're deeply concerned about  
the death of Robert F Kennedy.  
We think laws should change.  
If I were President I would  
change the laws to

- a. judicial system should be  
stricter
- b. Stricter law for obtaining firearms.
- c. Proper identification before entering  
public gatherings

And that is what I think

Your truly  
Don Terian



550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

My class and I are very concerned about the assassination of Senator Kennedy. We want to try to stop this killing. I wish you'd do something. I'm going to be the first lady president of the United States and stop this killing.

Hopefully  
Lucy Chaille  
fifth grade

550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif.  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

We're concerned about the assassination  
of Sen. Kennedy.  
They shouldn't have any bail he shot  
Kennedy so he could be punished.  
The men or anybody could be checked  
before seeing the president.  
Anybody who wants to see him  
have to have a pass.



550 Waterman  
El Centro Calif  
June 6, 1968

President Johnson  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir

I am very concerned about the  
assassination of Kennedy. When  
Kennedy was assassinated we were  
very disappointed with it. I know how  
unhappy his wife felt.

Yours truly  
Jerry Jones

June 18, 1968

GENERAL

LE/JL3

JL3/Kennedy Rott F.

Dear Miss Bennett:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Miss Donna K. Bennett  
Post Office Box 104  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)  
CFH:mfd



GENERAL

June 18, 1968

LE/JL3

JL3/Kennedy Robert F.

Dear Mr. Luzynski:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow. In his words:

"The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death cast a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world."

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. Time and again he has called upon Congress to enact genuinely effective gun control legislation. You may want to read in full his message of June 6 to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The enclosed copy comes to you with the President's appreciation for your interest -- and his hope for your active support in this urgent cause.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Anthony J. Luzynski  
3526 Sheffield Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19136

Enclosure: (President's June 6, 1968 letter to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate)

DFP:mfd

GENERAL

LE/JL3

June 18, 1968

JL3 / Kennedy Robt K.

Dear Mrs. Levine:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Saul Levine  
16 Westboro Street  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01851

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

CF:wm



GENERAL

June 18, 1968

LE/JL 3

JL3/Kennedy Rolt F.

---

Dear Mrs. Foster:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Ruth Foster

Lake City, Tennessee 37769

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

SM:tap

GENERAL

June 18, 1968

LE/JL3

JL3/Kennedy R.H.F.

Dear Mr. Singer:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Edward R. Singer  
275 Northern Boulevard  
Great Neck, New York 11021

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

DFP:tap



GENERAL

LE/9L3  
JL3/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Causer:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Robert A. Causer  
600 Jane Street, NE.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

CFH:oi

GENERAL

JL3  
JL3/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Dres:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Jerry Dres  
640 West Spruce Avenue  
Inglewood, California 90301

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

CFH:oi



cc/

GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy, Robert  
PR 18-1

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Standerfer:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. J. M. Standerfer  
2477 East Eldorado  
Decatur, Illinois 62521

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting;  
6/10 remarks to commission)

CFH:oi  
9

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Mr J.M. Standerfer  
2411 E. Eldorado  
Decatur, Ill.  
62521

25  
en m<sup>2</sup>  
269

June 5, 1968

Mr. President,

As a citizen, I wish  
to thank you for your  
very excellent and  
much needed address  
to the country tonight.

I believe your  
point should have  
certainly have been  
taken to the mind  
and hearts of every  
American, regardless



With much regard,  
and respect, I remain

GENERAL

June 18, 1968

Wc  
JL3/Kennedy  
Robert F.  
LE/JL3

Dear Mr. Goldman:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Maurice<sup>X</sup> Goldman  
426-B 69th Street  
Rockaway, New York 11692

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures : (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)  
SM:mfd  
)



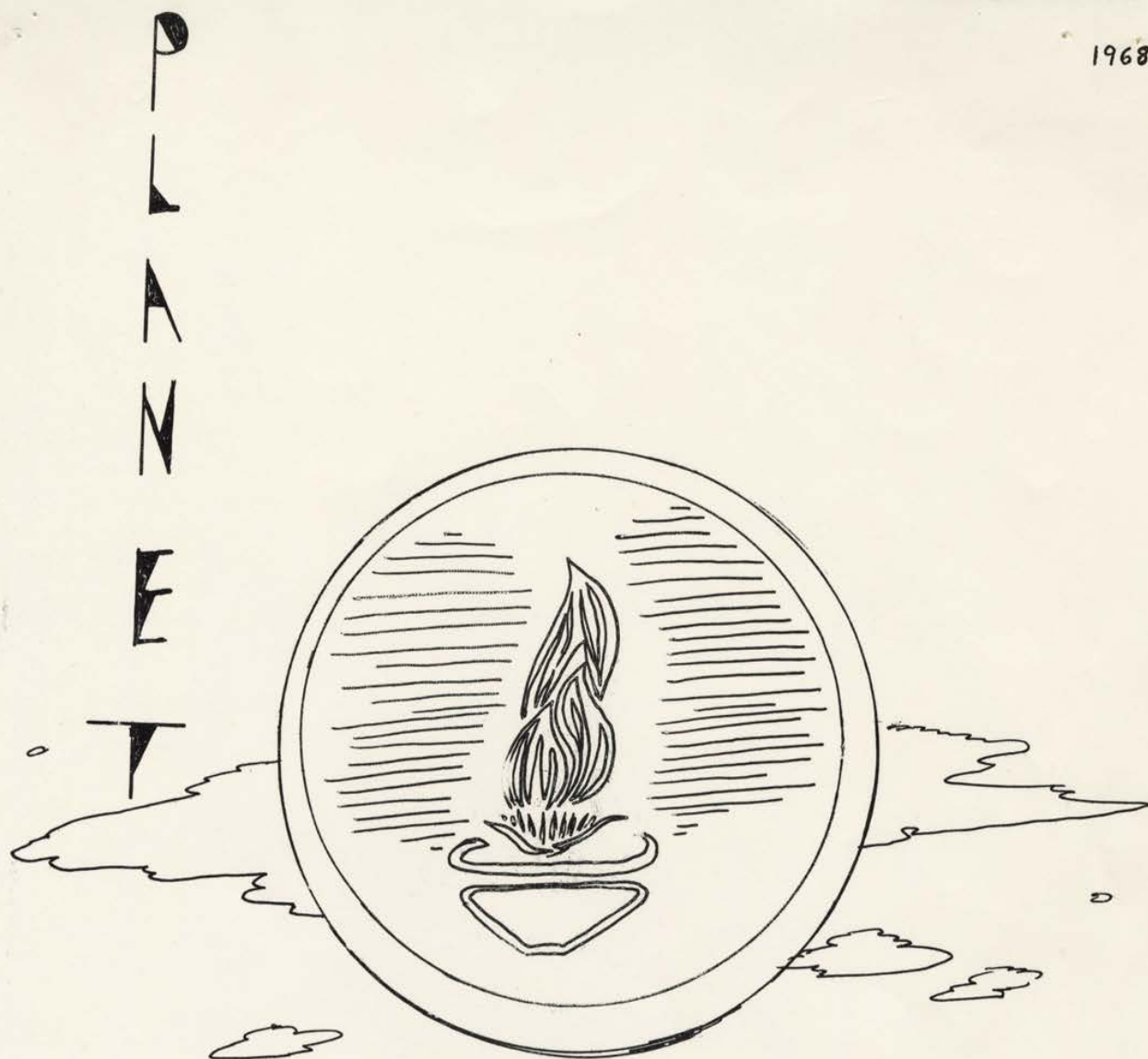
Dear Mr. President: <sup>dated 6/5/68</sup>  
85 Sm Sh 69 your speech  
against violence in the U.S.A.  
was very fine. However,  
in 1948, you were against any  
Federal anti-lynch laws.  
Was this the way to be  
against violence?

Hoping that you  
will be more specific in your  
views on violence, I am yours

sincerely  
Maurice Goldman  
(enw.)

P.S. 4 Popes condemned  
conscupition.

1968



E  
A  
R  
T  
H

*Special*

---



# "PLANET EARTH" MAGAZINE

SPECIAL ISSUE 1968

|                                                                                           |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Cover - Leonard Jones (prize-winning artist) . . . . .                                    | Page 1 |
| Statement of Purpose - Maurice Goldman . . . . .                                          | 2      |
| Editorial Notes - Maurice Goldman . . . . .                                               | 3      |
| Statement of Support "Resist". . . . .                                                    | 4      |
| Poem: "Sorrowful Sights" - Ed Roberts . . . . .                                           | 5      |
| Poem: "In Memoriam" - Mrs. Cathy Greenridge . . . . .                                     | 6      |
| Speech: "The Price of Empire" - U.S. Senator J. W. Fulbright*. . . . .                    | 7-14   |
| Poem: "One A or (H)-Bomb" - Jay Seldin. . . . .                                           | 15-16  |
| *Editor's Note: The title of the speech has commonly been known<br>as "The Sick Society". |        |

Editors - Leonard Jones and Maurice Goldman

Layout and Art Editor - Leonard Jones

Staff ----- Linda Quinones

Mrs. Cathy Greenridge

Publisher -- Maurice Goldman

"Planet Earth" magazine is published bi-monthly at 32 South Terrace Place,  
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580, where all mail and material should be sent.

Permission must be obtained to reprint any part of "Planet Earth" magazine.

## Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this magazine is to pursue truth - to develop opportunities  
for expression - and to keep a sense of humor.

To this end we shall not be afraid to question, to search - and to smile.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

- A. The following Statement of Support, by "Resist" on page 4, represents one of the steps of the path that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., set out for us to follow.

Let us therefore not be afraid to take the one small step on this noble path.

- B. The two poems, "Sorrowful Sights" by Ed Roberts, and "In Memoriam" by Cathy Greenridge on pp. 5-6, represent the thoughts of two young writers, reflecting upon problems that face the youth of today.

Although these young writers may not agree with each other, they nevertheless reflect to a large extent the fears, aspirations and anxieties of today's youth.

- C. Because of its importance, timeliness and the fact that it has gone virtually unreported, "Planet Earth" Magazine is most pleased to present as a major part of this special issue, U.S. Senator J. W. Fulbright's most significant speech, "The Price of Empire", commonly known as "The Sick Society". We also wish to thank Senator Fulbright for his encouraging permission to reprint his speech.

- D. A Sensitive poem, One A or (H)-Bomb, by Jay Seldin, 1939-1960, Columbia U. M. S. is part of other material that he wrote. We will periodically publish Jay Seldin's other writings as the opportunity arises.

-oOo-



## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR:

BENJAMIN SPOCK, MICHAEL FERBER,  
WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN, MARCUS RASKIN, MITCHELL GOODMAN

We stand beside the men who have been indicted for support of draft resistance. If they are sentenced, we, too, must be sentenced. If they are imprisoned, we will take their places and will continue to use what means we can to bring this war to an end.

We will not stand by silently as our government conducts a criminal war. We will continue to offer support as we have been doing to those who refuse to serve in Vietnam and to those indicted men and all others who refuse to be passive accomplices in war crimes. The war is illegitimate and our actions are legitimate.

Rev. Robert McAfee Brown  
Noam Chomsky  
Mary Clarke  
Frederic Crews  
Edward Gottlieb  
Paul Goodman  
Florence Howe  
Jane Jacobs  
Donald Kalish  
Louis Kampf

Rev. Martin Luther King  
David Krech  
Paul Lauter  
Denise Levertov  
Robert Lowell  
Dwight Macdonald  
Herbert Magidson  
Norman Mailer  
Rev. Richard Mumma  
Conor Cruise O'Brien

Thomas Parkinson  
Ava Helen Pauling  
Linus Pauling  
Sidney Peck  
Hillary Putnam  
Harry Rubin  
Franz Schurmann  
Susan Sontag  
Arthur Waskow  
Rt. Rev. Harlan  
Weitzel  
Howard Zinn

SIGNATURE

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS AND PHONE

This statement was prepared by "RESIST" and is being circulated by the War Resisters League and other concerned organizations. For additional copies, write us immediately. Return the Statements of Support as quickly as possible to: WRL, 5 Beekman Street, New York, N. Y. 10038

SORROWFUL SIGHTS By Ed Roberts 4/8/68

I spied an old beggar man, on the roadside he was lyin  
His heart it was heavy, tears of blood he was cryin,  
I knelt down along side him and asked what grieved him,  
"What sorrowful sights have your eyes been a-seein?"  
He glanced up at me and clasped my hand tightly,  
Said, "I'll tell you the visions that are haunting me nightly."

"I've travelled this world from the east to the west,  
Seein nothin but hatred, deceit and unrest.  
I saw seven Negroes, their bodies in chains,  
Their skin was a-bleedin from their unholy reins.  
Their pride it was raped by some white men's preachings,  
Their backs they were scarred by some white men's whippings."

"I saw a fair damsel dressed all in white satin,  
Virgin of womanhood - she claimed to be queen.  
Her lustful desires met no satisfaction,  
Possessing at will what e'er could be seen.  
Homage was paid her and glory given,  
By those who needed an idol to worship."

"I saw three ravens on a black branch a-sittin,  
The trio was starin at a young solder's corpse.  
They lighted aside him and started a-diggin  
A grave for the lad who had died in a war  
Of meaningless causes and multiple horrors."

"I saw a young babe a-weepin and wailin  
For love and affection of which she had none.  
Her bare body quivered with signs of emotion.  
Her arms stretched outward for some sign of attention.  
A stranger at three years and twenty-one days,  
A child forlorn, left alone in life's maze."

"I saw a whole city burnt black as the night.  
Huge empty skeletons consuming my sight.  
Bodies grown cold lay beneath the bent steel,  
Killed by the sword they intended to wield,  
To cut themselves free from oppression and hate,  
And now to realize the truth ----- is too late."

"These sights and more in my life I have seen,  
Depressing as death and sad as lost dreams.  
My faith in mankind lies in today's youths  
To benefit humanity and utilize truth.  
Tis their goal, their quest to be conquered and won,  
To right all wrongs, to live as but one,  
For I am no longer, my time it is done."

I rose from the dead man with tears in my eyes,  
Wondering why all men have to die.  
Perhaps death saves them from long sleepless nights  
Of infinite nightmares of sorrowful sights.



FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1967  
8:30 P.M. - WASHINGTON, D.C.

I N M E M O R I U M

L/Cpl. M.R. Greenidge - U.S.M.C.

Killed In Action - March 31, 1968

My husband's brother, Michael  
Died Sunday in Vietnam  
Just recently having written  
"I'm happy where I am!"  
'Don't believe half of the stuff  
You may hear or read  
You've just got to be there  
To see the want...the need.'  
He wasn't afraid of dying  
He believed he was doing some good  
In helping those people  
As much as he possibly could  
"What they've done to these people  
Is too much to explain  
To see these children...these elders  
Suffering torture and pain.  
If you people at home  
Would really concentrate  
You'd see how very lucky you are  
How very fortunate'  
All this I gathered from his letters  
Which were like him...so full of life  
And the harder it got  
The more he would strive  
I would never stop to say  
That Michael died in vain  
Knowing him...anyone could see  
He would gladly do it again.

- MRS. CATHY GREENIDGE

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1967  
6:30 P.M. - WASHINGTON, D.C.  
TIME

STATEMENT BY SENATOR J. W. FULBRIGHT, CHAIRMAN  
U. S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

BEFORE A LUNCHEON SPONSORED JOINTLY BY THE  
SECTION OF GENERAL PRACTICE AND THE  
SECTION OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW  
OF THE  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
HONOLULU, HAWAII, AUGUST 8, 1967  
12:30 P.M.

THE PRICE OF EMPIRE

Standing in the smoke and rubble of Detroit, a Negro veteran said: "I just got back from Vietnam a few months ago, but you know, I think the war is here."

There are in fact two wars going on. One is the war of power politics which our soldiers are fighting in the jungles of southeast Asia. The other is a war for America's soul which is being fought in the streets of Newark and Detroit and in the halls of Congress, in churches and protest meetings and on college campuses, and in the hearts and minds of silent Americans from Maine to Hawaii. I believe that the two wars have something to do with each other, not in the direct tangibly causal way that bureaucrats require as proof of a connection between two things, but in a subtler, moral and qualitative way that is no less real for being intangible. Each of these wars might well be going on in the absence of the other, but neither, I suspect, standing alone, would seem so hopeless and demoralizing.

The connection between Vietnam and Detroit is in their conflicting and incompatible demands upon traditional American values. The one demands that they be set aside, the other that they be fulfilled. The one demands the acceptance by America of an imperial role in the world, or of what our policy makers like to call the "responsibilities of power," or of what I have called the "arrogance of power." The other demands freedom and social justice at home, an end to poverty, the fulfillment of our flawed democracy, and an effort to create a role for ourselves in the world which is compatible with our traditional values. The question, it should be emphasized, is not whether it is possible to engage in traditional power politics abroad and at the same time to perfect democracy at home, but whether it is possible for us Americans, with our particular history and national character, to combine morally incompatible roles.

Administration officials tell us that we can indeed afford both Vietnam and the Great Society, and they produce impressive statistics of the gross national product to prove it. The statistics show financial capacity but they do not show moral and psychological capacity. They do not show how a President preoccupied with bombing missions over North and South Vietnam can provide strong and consistent leadership for the renewal of our cities. They do not show how a Congress burdened with war costs and war measures, with emergency briefings and an endless



series of dramatic appeals, with anxious constituents and a mounting anxiety of their own, can tend to the workaday business of studying social problems and legislating programs to meet them. Nor do the statistics tell how an anxious and puzzled people, bombarded by press and television with the bad news of American deaths in Vietnam, the "good news" of enemy deaths -- and with vividly horrifying pictures to illustrate them -- can be expected to support neighborhood anti-poverty projects and national programs for urban renewal, employment and education. Anxiety about war does not breed compassion for one's neighbors; nor do constant reminders of the cheapness of life abroad strengthen our faith in its sanctity at home. In these ways the war in Vietnam is poisoning and brutalizing our domestic life. Psychological incompatibility has proven to be more controlling than financial feasibility; and the Great Society has become a sick society.

# I Imperial Destiny and the American Dream

When he visited America a hundred years ago, Thomas Huxley wrote: "I cannot say that I am in the slightest degree impressed by your bigness, or your material resources, as such. Size is not grandeur, and territory does not make a nation. The great issue, about which hangs the terror of overhanging fate, is what are you going to do with all these things?"

The question is still with us and we seem to have come to a time of historical crisis when its answer can no longer be deferred. Before the Second World War our world role was a potential role; we were important in the world for what we could do with our power, for the leadership we might provide, for the example we might set. Now the choices are almost gone: we are almost the world's self-appointed policeman; we are almost the world defender of the status quo. We are well on our way to becoming a traditional great power -- an imperial nation if you will -- engaged in the exercise of power for its own sake, exercising it to the limit of our capacity and beyond, filling every vacuum and extending the American "presence" to the farthest reaches of the earth. And, as with the great empires of the past, as the power grows, it is becoming an end in itself, separated except by ritual incantation from its initial motives, governed, it would seem, by its own mystique, power without philosophy or purpose.

That describes what we have almost become, but we have not become a traditional empire yet. The old values remain -- the populism and the optimism, the individualism and the rough-hewn equality, the friendliness and the good humor, the inventiveness and the zest for life, the caring about people and the sympathy for the underdog, and the idea, which goes back to the American Revolution, that maybe -- just maybe -- we can set an example of democracy and human dignity for the world.

That is something which none of the great empires of the past has ever done -- or tried to do -- or wanted to do -- but we were bold enough -- or presumptuous enough -- to think that we might be able to do it. And there are a great many Americans who still think we can do it -- or at least they want to try.

That, I believe, is what all the hue and cry is about -- the dissent in the Senate and the protest marches in the cities, the letters to the President from student leaders and former Peace Corps volunteers, the lonely searching of conscience by a student facing the draft and the letter to a Senator from a soldier in the field who can no longer accept the official explanations of why he has been sent to



fight in the jungles of Vietnam. All believe that their country was cut out for something more ennobling than an imperial destiny. Our youth are showing that they still believe in the American dream, and their protests attest to its continuing vitality.

There appeared in a recent issue of the journal Foreign Affairs a curious little article complaining about the failure of many American intellectuals to support what the author regards as America's unavoidable "imperial role" in the world. The article took my attention because it seems a faithful statement of the governing philosophy of American foreign policy while also suggesting how little the makers of that policy appreciate the significance of the issue between themselves and their critics. It is taken for granted -- not set forth as an hypothesis to be proven -- that, any great power, in the author's words, "is entangled in a web of responsibilities from which there is no hope of escape," and that "there is no way the United States, as the world's mightiest power, can avoid such an imperial role. . .<sup>1</sup>". The author's displeasure with the "intellectuals" -- he uses the word more or less to describe people who disagree with the Administration's policy -- is that, in the face of this alleged historical inevitability, they are putting up a disruptive, irritating and futile resistance. They are doing this, he believes, because they are believers in "ideology" -- the better word would be "values" or "ideals" -- and this causes their thinking to be "irrelevant" to foreign policy.

Here, inadvertently, the writer puts his finger on the nub of the current crisis. The students and churchmen and professors who are protesting the Vietnam war do not accept the notion that foreign policy is a matter of expedients to which values are irrelevant. They reject this notion because they understand, as some of our policy makers do not understand, that it is ultimately self-defeating to "fight fire with fire," that you cannot defend your values in a manner that does violence to those values without destroying the very thing you are trying to defend. They understand, as our policy makers do not, that when American soldiers are sent, in the name of freedom, to sustain corrupt dictators in a civil war, that when the CIA subverts student organizations to engage in propaganda activities abroad, or when the Export-Import Bank is used by the Pentagon to finance secret arms sales abroad, damage -- perhaps irreparable damage -- is being done to the very values that are meant to be defended. The critics understand, as our policy makers do not, that, through the undemocratic expedients we have adopted for the defense of American democracy, we are weakening it to a degree that is beyond the resources of our bitterest enemies.

Nor do the dissenters accept the romantic view that a nation is powerless to choose the role it will play in the world, that some mystic force of history or destiny requires a powerful nation to be an imperial nation, dedicated to what Paul Goodman calls the "empty system of power,"<sup>2</sup> to the pursuit of power without purpose, philosophy or compassion. They do not accept the Hegelian concept of history as something out of control, as something that happens to us rather than something that we make. They do not accept the view that, because other great

1. Irving Kristol, "American Intellectuals and Foreign Policy," Foreign Affairs, July 1967, pp. 602,605.
2. Like A Conquered Province, The Moral Ambiguity of America (New York: Random House, 1967), p. 73.



nations have pursued power for its own sake -- a pursuit which invariably has ended in decline or disaster -- America must do the same. They think we have some choice about our own future and that the best basis for exercising that choice is the values on which this republic was founded.

The critics of our current course also challenge the contention that the traditional methods of foreign policy are safe and prudent and realistic. They are understandably skeptical of their wise and experienced elders who, in the name of prudence, caution against any departure from the tried and true methods that have led in this century to Sarajevo, Munich and Dien Bien Phu. They think that the methods of the past have been tried and found wanting, and two world wars attest powerfully to their belief. Most of all, they think that, in this first era of human history in which man has acquired weapons which threaten his entire species with destruction, safety and prudence and realism require us to change the rules of a dangerous and discredited game, to try as we have never tried before to civilize and humanize international relations, not only for the sake of civilization and humanity but for the sake of survival.

Even the most ardent advocates of an imperial role for the United States would probably agree that the proper objective of our foreign policy is the fostering of a world environment in which we can, with reasonable security, devote our main energies to the realization of the values of our own society. This does not require the adoption or imposition of these values on anybody, but it does require us so to conduct ourselves that our society does not seem hateful and repugnant to others.

At present much of the world is repelled by America and what America seems to stand for in the world. Both in our foreign affairs and in our domestic life we convey an image of violence; I do not care very much about images as distinguished from the things they reflect, but this image is rooted in reality. Abroad we are engaged in a savage and unsuccessful war against poor people in a small and backward nation. At home -- largely because of the neglect resulting from twenty-five years of preoccupation with foreign involvements -- our cities are exploding in violent protest against generations of social injustice. America, which only a few years ago seemed to the world to be a model of democracy and social justice, has become a symbol of violence and undisciplined power.

"... it is excellent," wrote Shakespeare, "to have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant."<sup>3</sup> By using our power like a giant we are fostering a world environment which is, to put it mildly, uncongenial to our society. By our undisciplined use of physical power we have divested ourselves of a greater power: the power of example. How, for example, can we commend peaceful compromise to the Arabs and the Israelis when we are unwilling to suspend our relentless bombing of North Vietnam? How can we commend democratic social reform to Latin America when Newark, Detroit and Milwaukee are providing explosive evidence of our own inadequate efforts at democratic social reform? How can we commend the free enterprise system to Asians and Africans when in our own country it has produced vast, chaotic, noisy, dangerous and dirty urban complexes while poisoning the very air and land and water? There may come a time when Americans will again be able to commend their country as an example to the world and, more in hope than confidence, I retain my faith that there will; but to do so right at this moment would take more gall than I have.

3. Measure for Measure, Act II, Scene 2, Line 107.



Far from building a safe world environment for American values, our war in Vietnam and the domestic deterioration which it has aggravated are creating a most uncongenial world atmosphere for American ideas and values. The world has no need, in this age of nationalism and nuclear weapons, for a new imperial power, but there is a great need of moral leadership -- by which I mean the leadership of decent example. That role could be ours but we have vacated the field, and all that has kept the Russians from filling it is their own lack of imagination.

At the same time, as we have noted, and of even greater fundamental importance, our purposeless and undisciplined use of power is causing a profound controversy in our own society. This in a way is something to be proud of. We have sickened but not succumbed and just as a healthy body fights disease, we are fighting the alien concept which is being thrust upon us, not by history but by our policy makers in the Department of State and the Pentagon. We are proving the strength of the American dream by resisting the dream of an imperial destiny. We are demonstrating the validity of our traditional values by the difficulty we are having in betraying them.

The principal defenders of these values are our remarkable younger generation, something of whose spirit is expressed in a letter which I received from an American soldier in Vietnam. Speaking of the phony propaganda on both sides, and then of the savagery of the war, of the people he describes as the "real casualties" -- "the farmers and their families in the Delta mangled by air strikes, and the villagers here killed and burned out by our friendly Korean mercenaries" -- this young soldier then asks ". . . whatever has become of our dream? Where is that America that opposed tyrannies at every turn, without inquiring first whether some particular forms of tyranny might be of use to us? Of the three rights which men have, the first, as I recall, was the right to life. How then have we come to be killing so many in such a dubious cause?"

## II. The Sick Society

While the death toll mounts in Vietnam, it is mounting too in the war at home. During a single week of July 1967, 164 Americans were killed and 1,442 wounded in Vietnam, while 65 Americans were killed and 2,100 were wounded in city riots in the United States. We are truly fighting a two-front war and doing badly in both. Each war feeds on the other and, although the President assures us that we have the resources to win both wars, in fact we are not winning either.

Together the two wars have set in motion a process of deterioration in American society and there is no question that each of the two crises is heightened by the impact of the other. Not only does the Vietnam war divert human and material resources from our festering cities; not only does it foster the conviction on the part of slum Negroes that their country is indifferent to their plight. In addition the war feeds the idea of violence as a way of solving problems. If, as Mr. Rusk tells us, only the rain of bombs can bring Ho Chi Minh to reason, why should not the same principle apply at home? Why should not riots and snipers' bullets bring the white man to an awareness of the Negro's plight when peaceful programs for housing and jobs and training have been more rhetoric than reality? Ugly and shocking thoughts are in the American air and they were forged in the Vietnam crucible. Black power extremists talk of "wars of liberation" in the urban ghettos of America. A cartoon in a London newspaper showed two Negro soldiers in battle in Vietnam with one saying to the other: "This is going to be great training for civilian life."



The effect of domestic violence on the chances for peace in Vietnam may turn out to be no less damaging than the impact of the war on events at home. With their limited knowledge of the United States, the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese may regard the urban riots as a harbinger of impending breakdown and eventual American withdrawal from Vietnam, warranting stepped up warfare and an uncompromising position on negotiations. It is possible that the several opportunities to negotiate which our government has let pass, most recently last winter, could not now be retrieved. Some eighteen months ago General Maxwell Taylor said in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the war was being prolonged by domestic dissent. That dissent was based in part on apprehension as to the effects of the war on our domestic life. Now the war is being prolonged by the domestic deterioration which has in fact occurred and it is doubtful that all of the dissenters in America, even if they wanted to, as they certainly do not, could give the enemy a fraction of the aid and comfort that has been given him by Newark, Detroit and Milwaukee.

An unnecessary and immoral war deserves in its own right to be liquidated; when its effect in addition is the aggravation of grave problems and the corrosion of values in our own society, its liquidation under terms of reasonable and honorable compromise is doubly imperative. Our country is being weakened by a grotesque inversion of priorities, the effects of which are becoming clear to more and more Americans -- in the Congress, in the press and in the country at large. Even the Washington Post, a newspaper which has obsequiously supported the Administration's policy in Vietnam, took note in a recent editorial of the "ugly image of a world policeman incapable of policing itself" as against the "absolute necessity of a sound domestic base for an effective foreign policy," and then commented: "We are confronted simultaneously with an urgent domestic crisis and an urgent foreign crisis and our commitments to both are clear. We should deal with both with all the energy and time and resources that may be required. But if the moment ever arises when we cannot deal adequately and effectively with both, there is no shame -- and some considerable logic -- in making it plain beyond a doubt that our first consideration and our first priority rests with the security of the stockade."<sup>4</sup>.

Commenting on the same problem of priorities, Mayor Cavanaugh of Detroit said:

"What will it profit this country if we, say, put our man on the moon by 1970 and at the same time you can't walk down Woodward Avenue in this city without some fear of violence?"

"And we may be able to pacify every village in Vietnam, over a period of years, but what good does it do if we can't pacify the American cities?"

"What I am saying . . . is that our priorities in this country are all out of balance . . . Maybe Detroit was a watershed this week in American history and it might well be that out of the ashes of this city comes the national resolve to do far more than anything we have done in the past."<sup>5</sup>.

4. The Washington Post, July 27, 1967

5. Comments on "Meet the Press," reported in The Washington Post, July 31, 1967.



Priorities are reflected in the things we spend money on. Far from being a dry accounting of bookkeepers, a nation's budget is full of moral implications; it tells what a society cares about and what it does not care about; it tells what its values are.

Here are a few statistics on America's values: Since 1946 we have spent over \$1,578 billion through our regular national budget. Of this amount over \$904 billion, or 57.29 percent of the total, have gone for military power. By contrast, less than \$96 billion, or 6.09 percent, were spent on "social functions" including education, health, labor and welfare programs, housing and community development. The Administration's budget for fiscal year 1968 calls for almost \$76 billion to be spent on the military and only \$15 billion for "social functions."

I would not say that we have shown ourselves to value weapons five or ten times as much as we value domestic social needs, as the figures suggest; certainly much of our military spending has been necessitated by genuine requirements of national security. I think, however, that we have embraced the necessity with excessive enthusiasm, that the Congress has been all too willing to provide unlimited sums for the military and not really very reluctant at all to offset these costs to a very small degree by cutting away funds for the poverty program and urban renewal, for rent supplements for the poor and even for a program to help protect slum children from being bitten by rats. Twenty million dollars a year to eliminate rats -- about one-one hundredth of the monthly cost of the war in Vietnam -- would not eliminate slum riots but, as Tom Wicker has written, "It would only suggest that somebody cared."<sup>6</sup> The discrepancy of attitudes tells at least as much about our national values as the discrepancy of dollars.

### III The Regenerative Power of Youth

While the country sickens for lack of moral leadership, a most remarkable younger generation has taken up the standard of American idealism. Unlike so many of their elders, they have perceived the fraud and sham in American life and are unequivocally rejecting it. Some, the hippies, have simply withdrawn, and while we may regret the loss of their energies and their sense of decency, we can hardly gainsay their evaluation of the state of society. Others of our youth are sardonic and skeptical, not, I think, because they do not want ideals but because they want the genuine article and will not tolerate fraud. Others -- students who wrestle with their consciences about the draft, soldiers who wrestle with their consciences about the war, Peace Corps volunteers who strive to light the spark of human dignity among the poor of India or Brazil, and VISTA volunteers who try to do the same for our own poor in Harlem or Appalachia -- are striving to keep alive the traditional values of American democracy.

They are not really radical, these young idealists, no more radical, that is, than Jefferson's idea of freedom, Lincoln's idea of equality, or Wilson's idea of a peaceful community of nations. Some of them, it is true, are taking what many regard as radical action, but they are doing it in defense of traditional values and in protest against the radical departure from those values embodied in the idea of an imperial destiny for America.

The focus of their protest is the war in Vietnam and the measure of their

6. The New York Times, July 23, 1967.



integrity is the fortitude with which they refused to be deceived about it. By striking contrast with the young Germans who accepted the Nazi evil because the values of their society had disintegrated and they had no moral frame of reference, these young Americans are demonstrating the vitality of American values. They are demonstrating that, while their country is capable of acting falsely to itself, it cannot do so without internal disruption, without calling forth the regenerative counterforce of protest from Americans who are willing to act in defense of the principles they were brought up to believe in.

The spirit of this regenerative generation has been richly demonstrated to me in letters from student leaders, from former Peace Corps volunteers and from soldiers fighting in Vietnam. I quoted from one earlier in my remarks. Another letter that is both striking and representative was written by an officer still in Vietnam. He wrote:

"For eleven years I was, before this war, a Regular commissioned officer -- a professional military man in name and spirit; now -- in name only. To fight well (as do the VC), a soldier must believe in his leadership. I, and many I have met, have lost faith in ours. Since I hold that duty to conscience is higher than duty to the administration (not 'country' as cry the nationalists), I declined a promotion and have resigned my commission. I am to be discharged on my return, at which time I hope to contribute in some way to the search for peace in Vietnam."

Some years ago Archibald MacLeish characterized the American people as follows:

"Races didn't bother the Americans. They were something a lot better than any race. They were a People. They were the first self-constituted, self-declared, self-created People in the history of the world. And their manners were their own business. And so were their politics. And so, but ten times so, were their souls."<sup>8</sup>

Now the possession of their souls is being challenged by the false and dangerous dream of an imperial destiny. It may be that the challenge will succeed, that America will succumb to becoming a traditional empire and will reign for a time over what must surely be a moral if not a physical wasteland, and then, like the great empires of the past, will decline or fall. Or it may be that the effort to create so grotesque an anachronism will go up in flames of nuclear holocaust. But if I had to bet my money on what is going to happen, I would bet on this younger generation -- this generation who reject the inhumanity of war in a poor and distant land, who reject the poverty and sham in their own country, this generation who are telling their elders what their elders ought to have known, that the price of empire is America's soul and that price is too high.

8. Archibald MacLeish, A Time To Act (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1943), p. 115.

(over)

Jay Seldin - 1939-1960,

was a Ph.D. student in mathematics at the time of his tragic death in a hit and run auto accident. Although he was a mathematics student, Jay Seldin was nevertheless concerned with social problems. This poem "One A or (H)-Bomb", represents his attempt to

meet one of the most important social problems of his time and of ours.

"For eleven years I was, before this war, a regular commissioned officer -- a professional soldier and spirit; now -- in name only. To fight well (as do the VC), a soldier must believe in his leader. I, and many I have known, since I held that duty to conscience is higher than duty to the administration (not 'country' as cry the nationalists). I am to be discharged on my return, at which time I hope to continue in some way to the search for peace in Vietnam."

By Jay Seldin - 1939-1960

- 1) Some scientists worked at the chore  
Of finding ways to win the war;  
They got a bright idea at last  
To do it with a single blast!  
One A-Bomb! One A-Bomb!  
We can end it all with one A-Bomb.
- 2) So to Hiroshima one fine day  
Came an airplane from the U.S.A.,  
The crew took one quick look around  
Then dropped their Bomb onto the ground.  
One A-Bomb! One A-Bomb!  
They only needed one A-Bomb!
- 3) The city fell beneath the shroud  
Of an enormous mushroom cloud;  
Where once a multitude had been  
There now was nothing to be seen.  
One A-Bomb! One A-Bomb!  
They blew it all up with one A-Bomb.
- 4) And showers of radioactive rain  
Poisoned all those who were not slain;  
Before they knew what it was about,  
They became first victims of fallout.  
One A-Bomb! One A-Bomb!  
There's more kinds of death from one A-Bomb!

(more)



## ONE A OR (H)-BOMB (continued)

- 5) When news of what they'd come upon  
Reached the generals in the Pentagon;  
They said, "If all this damage was done  
With a better bomb, we'll have more fun."  
One H-Bomb! One H-Bomb!  
They started work on one H-Bomb!
- 6) Then Edward Teller and his Gang  
Built an H-Bomb with a great big gang;  
On a Pacific island they let it fall  
And it disappeared in a fire ball.  
One H-Bomb! One H-Bomb!  
They sank an island with one H-Bomb!
- 7) While America did burst with pride  
A message from the other side  
Said, "Don't fool with that bomb; we're warning you.  
For the Soviet Union has it too."  
One H-Bomb! One H-Bomb!  
Each country has a right to One H-Bomb!
- 8) Now we live in security  
As the balance of terror keeps us free;  
Both East and West have cause for mirth  
Enough H-Bombs to destroy the earth.  
One H-Bomb! One H-Bomb!  
We can end us all with one H-Bomb!

(c)

GENERAL<sup>1</sup>

LE/JL3

JL3/Kennedy Rott F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Slovy:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you and the employees of your firm for writing at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Joseph Slovy  
Bay Furniture Company  
8908 Stony Island Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60617

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission.

DFP:rrw



GENERAL

LE/JL3

June 18, 1968

JL3/Kennedy R.H.F.

Dear Mr. Morris:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Clark R. Morris  
66-4 Drexelbrook Drive  
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania 19026

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)  
CFH:mfd

GENERAL

LE/JL3

June 18, 1968

JL 3/Kennedy Rott F.

Dear Mrs. Santoro:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. William Santoro  
1317 Lynn Street  
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

SM:mfd



mc

GENERAL

June 18, 1968

JL3/Kennedy,  
Robert F.  
F6795

Dear Mrs. DeLong:

On behalf of President Johnson, I should like to acknowledge your letter. Please be sure that your comments have been fully noted.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Margaret DeLong  
1278 45th Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94122

CFH:jam

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

10<sup>th</sup> dt  
pro 6/5/68 statement  
Con-Comm  
R-218  
ack 6/18/68

1278-45th Avenue  
San Francisco, Calif.  
94122

June 6, 1968

President L. B. Johnson  
c/o The White House  
Washington, D. C.

K2

Dear Mr. President:

In connection with your statements made on TV and radio June 5 concerning the attempted assassination of R. F. Kennedy, wish you to know that I support your statement that "society" of 200 million Americans is not responsible for the actions of this assassin. I take exception to your appointment of a commission to study the reasons for such violence. We have commissions studying commissions, etc. etc. I believe we the American Public are the victims of a conspiracy - why not have a commission to study this possibility. How can the Attorney General of the United States dismiss this possibility so easily without any apparent investigation on his part? It is this sort of action that breeds frustration on the part of the American. We feel we are victimized, are being used for purposes over which we have no control.

Yours truly,

*Margaret DeLong*  
(Mrs.) Margaret DeLong

cc: Attorney General, U. S. Govt.  
Senator Kuchel, c/o U. S. Senate  
Representative Maillard, c/o House of  
Representatives  
Please give us some action on this.



GENERAL

LE/9L3

9L3/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Combs:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Melanie L. Combs  
17333 Los Alimos Street  
Granada Hills, California 91344

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)  
CFH:mfd

cc/

GENERAL

JL 3/Kennedy, Robert  
JL 3

June 18, 1968

Dear Mr. Carney:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Cyril Carney  
8816 North Center Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53322

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:tap  
2



19<sup>th</sup> M<sup>th</sup>

Comment assassinating J.R.K.  
Rep law + order  
SH-69

3816 W. Center St,  
Milwaukee, Wis., 53222

Hon. Lyndon Johnson  
President of the U.S.  
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sen. :

After the heinous attack  
on U.S. Senator Kennedy  
my blood is beginning  
to boil.

Notwithstanding the fact  
that I am a Republican,  
I feel for the respect and  
honor due a man of Kenne-  
dy's stature.

When is all this lawless-  
ness going to stop in America?

When is the Congress going  
to adopt laws to have every  
gun owner in America register  
its possession?

Let's get rid of the Sunday  
Law and let our Police author-  
ities resume in the methods  
previously used to provide law  
& order in every community.



2

Police all over the nation  
are retreating all because their  
hands are tied. Let the Supreme  
Court give them the authority  
they need to establish law  
and order in this great  
land of ours.

Let some of your last  
acts in office be for the  
betterment of our Country.  
Let's do the things that will  
restore Law and order, and  
respect for authority in each  
community.

You as president can be  
a great influence to both  
houses. Do your utmost in  
this great need, and you will  
retire from office as the great-  
est president that ever served  
the American populace.

Yours truly,  
Cyril Carney  
MR. (CYRIL CARNEY)



cc/

GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy, Robert  
CO126  
CO1 (Arabs)

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Matthews:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Mary E. Matthews  
107 East Rockwell Street  
Fenton, Michigan 48430

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:tap  
3

When they heard these things, they held  
their peace, and glorified God, saying,  
"Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted  
repentance unto life." <sup>6-18</sup>  
<sup>6-18</sup>

<sup>MR 29</sup>  
<sup>SH-69</sup> Greetings in Jesus' Holy Name.  
Comment assassination R.K. 107 E Rockwell St.  
Relates incidents in Israel Fenton, Michigan  
re Jordanians 48430

June 6, 1968.

President Linden Johnson,  
President of United States of America,  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Johnson:

Our hearts are all grieved with the  
news of Robert Kennedy's assassination to-day.  
Many of us Christians all over this great  
country of ours have been praying for  
Our Lord and Saviour to save this country  
from violence and bring us back to the  
way of life our founders hoped and



prayed it should be.

I have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and am sent as God sent prophets of old whither so ever He had need of using them.

I had been called to Israel and was awaiting time of my departure when President John Kennedy was killed.

At your first election for the highest office our beloved country bestows upon a man, all Israel was praying for you to win. Many many times I had to assure people you would without a doubt be elected for when a man in America finishes out an other's term of President, Americans always give him an opportunity to show what he can do for the country in this position under his own plans.

at that time almost daily; American women, tourists and otherwise were assaulted just over the border on the Israeli side and attributed to Arabs. Women with escorts - escorts were man handled tied or injured so they could not help.

These women after being abused were killed thrown in wells, in shallow ditches, vacant houses or tanks and jeeps rusted and left on road sides since war of 1948 to keep in mind the horrors of War.

This was evidently being done to seem to Our Country that it was the Jews mistreating our women.

Now our country has a taste of the unprovoked viciousness of the Arab.

I arrived in Israel just two days



after a new Consul General and his wife arrived in Israel from America and his wife taking a walk behind the King David Hotel in Israeli Jerusalem got one foot over the border at twilight and was shot dead.

Many experiences were mine during that fifteen months but I learned under every harrowing experience the Jew does not want to kill, but if he has to his shot is sure. Where an Arab shoots and thinks after.

If in this free country of America a man like Robert Kennedy can't say in a campaign speech "Israel should receive help from America," or be killed for saying it. Where has our freedom of speech gone?

May Our Precious Lord guide and bless you and yours.

Mary C. Matthews

MATTHEWS

GENERAL

JL3/Kennedy, Robert  
JL3

June 18, 1968

Dear Miss Korn:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Miss Celia A. Korn  
727 1/2 Maupas Avenue  
Savannah, Georgia

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:tap



19  
m B  
SH-69

Comment assassination J.R.K.

Punish assassin - Korn

H. ALKON - Korn  
727 1/2 MAUPAS AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

June 5, 1968

To The President of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

My dear President-

As I attempt to put my thoughts  
into words, I am dismayed & broken  
hearted, as everyone is, at the horrible  
most horrible act of assassination,  
the untimely death of such a fine  
young American who was striving for  
a better life for all human beings.  
This terrible act of violence is unforgivable  
and as a mother and grandmother my  
heart goes out to that unfortunate  
Kennedy Family. In my humble  
mind, there is only one real  
(over

II

solution to these unspeakable crimes, that is to treat the murderers with equal violence - give them a taste of what they give to others, that is - to inflict severe bodily punishment and torture. Only fright & bodily torture would eliminate these senseless killings. A mere jail sentence is definitely not enough, for they get good food, a place to sleep and they ready to plan their next crime. It is such a pity that three (3) of our great Americans have gone to their untimely deaths by the hands of some idiots who deserve the Hitler tactics of



H. ALKON  
727½ MAUPAS AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

inhumanity <sup>!!!</sup> upon them. So, please  
reconsider this very humble solution  
Maybe Congress could enforce  
those laws to fight violence  
with greater violence & bodily  
torture.

To say that we are all disheartened  
is, indeed, putting it very mild.  
I sincerely hope that You, my dear  
President, will get to read this  
letter and find a quick  
solution to these horrible  
(over)

IV

crimes.

May I thank you again  
for your attention, and I  
will oblige.

I love my adopted America.  
I love my President, and  
always praying for peace &  
prosperity in my wonderful  
land.

Very sincerely,

Celia A. Korn, KORN  
727 1/2 Maupas Ave,  
Savannah, Ga.



June 18, 1968

**GENERAL**

JL3 / Kennedy Rott F.

Dear Mr. Moore:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

X  
Mr. Robert Moore  
143 Ludlow Street  
New York, New York 10002

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

SM:tap

5

R-1  
Violence  
18/5m  
H-69 6-18

Robert Moore  
143 Ludlow Street  
New York City 10002  
June 6<sup>th</sup> 1968

Dear Mr. President of the U.S.A.

Mr President we are tired. of  
good men get kill. for nothing. just because  
they don't like a man and what he stand  
for. Sen. Robert F Kennedy was a  
good man. also President Kennedy and  
Dr. Martin Luther King they was good men too.  
Sen Robert F Kennedy Dr Martin Luther King and  
President Kennedy. they was for the  
right thing. they didn't care what  
race you was not your color. and  
now Sen Robert F Kennedy has gave  
his life. I ask my self why do  
people do thing this. the Kennedys families  
have has to much sorry. Mr President  
we ask you with tear in our eye  
we was this killing to come to an end  
it not America, it the people that in America



America is the Greatest Country there  
is. we have lose a man. who Believe  
in God. we have lose a man. who  
Believe in the Right. Not the wrong. we  
have lose a man who. Believe in  
peace for our Country. How Long can  
people stand the Killing, we want the  
United State to be a safe state that  
we can raise our Children in and our  
Children, Children. we dont want to be  
offered to to walk the street. Mr  
President we ask you please please  
Put an end to this Killing.

we shall. over come. some days. and  
the freedom Bell. shall ring. free  
at last, free at last. If I  
Could give my Life To bring Back  
Sen Kennedy alive I would be more  
than Glad to. because we all love sen  
Kennedy. we will follow him to the  
end of the world. we all send our deep  
sorrow. and love to the Kennedy familer  
to Mrs Robert Kennedy and all the

family and his father & mother  
we all love the Kennedy family  
I have never met the Kennedy in  
person but what I read and see them  
on TV. that he a man of his  
word. we are so sad, which the  
whole world are sad. I want none  
forget Sen Robert Kennedy, so I pray  
to God that his children be like their  
father was, and Mr President.  
let the Kennedy have a day of their  
own. he was a good man a good  
Sen. he love his people and he try  
to help them. and Mr President we  
are Collor. and we also love him to.  
and will you please read this letter  
over the air Radio & TV. so that  
people of New York love the Sen  
Robert F. Kennedy and all his family  
thank you

Robert Moore  
To the President of the U.S.A.



THE WHITE HOUSE

Wash. D.C.

Mr. Robert Moore  
143 Ludlow Street  
New York, New York 10002

RETURNED TO WRITER  
Address unknown  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10002  
DO NOT USE THIS ENVELOPE OR  
WRAPPER AGAIN



☒ Moved, left no address  
☐ No such number  
☐ Moved, not forwarding  
☒ Address unknown





*Bio*

GENERAL

*JL3/Kennedy,  
Robert F.*

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Oakes; *Sarah*

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

*X*  
Mrs. William J. Oakes  
28 Campbell Street  
Waldwick, New Jersey 07463

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:sle

10

RECEIVED  
JUN 19 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

27. im 8

Kennedy Conference  
& comments

28-69

ack 6/18/68

June 6, 1968

Dear President Johnson,

A lot of people that I've  
talked to have a fatalistic  
approach to what has happened  
(Concerning Robert Kennedy)  
in this country. Mr Johnson  
we need a pep talk - we  
must continue to stand for  
what is right in this country  
we must not hide like cowards  
but work & fight for what  
is right.

Yesterday I visited Newberg  
New Jersey with my young  
son on a class trip. We



got there just in time to  
see the Flag raised to fife  
& drum. It is a Revolution-  
ary Contonment, they had  
problems too but they worked  
them out, so must we,  
this is a great country a  
good country - we need a  
pep talk.

Sincerely  
Dorothy Baker  
(Mrs William J.)  
- (EAV)

God Bless you and keep  
you.

GEN . LE \ JL 3

JL 3 / Kennedy R.F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Robert and Kevin:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letters at this time of terrible sorrow. In his words:

"The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death cast a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world."

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. Time and again he has called upon Congress to enact genuinely effective gun control legislation. You may want to read in full his message of June 6 to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The enclosed copy comes to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Robert Storer  
Kevin Terry  
1011 Bruce Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Enclosures: P's 6-6 ltr to Spkr of House and P. of Senate; @ 2 - #9's

EM:sle



GENERAL

JL3  
JL3/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

Dear Miss McDowell:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Miss Shirley McDowell  
736 St. Clair Street  
Pontiac, Michigan

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)

MD:tap

GENERAL

LEA/L3  
JL3/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Uselton:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. Edd Uselton  
Route 3  
Manchester, Tennessee 37355

Enclosures: (6/ televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)  
CFH:mfd



GENERAL

June 18, 1968

LE/9L3  
9L3/Kennedy, Robert

Dear Mrs. Winchester:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June 5 and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Mrs. L. N. Winchester  
326 East Forest Avenue  
Arcadia, California 91006

Enclosures: (6/5 televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)  
CFH:mfd

GENERAL

LE JLB

JLB/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

Dear Miss Fearis:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your letter at this time of terrible sorrow.

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a country that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. In his words, there can be no justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life.

For many months the President has urged the Congress to enact stringent crime and gun control legislation. Of immediate importance, you may want to read in full his remarks of June and June 10 on combatting and inquiring into the causes of violence. The enclosed copies come to you with the President's appreciation for your interest.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

Miss Agnes Fearis  
10508 Washington  
South Gate, California 90280

Enclosures: (6/ televised remarks on shooting; 6/10 remarks to commission)  
SM:mfd



mc

GENERAL

7L3/Kennedy,  
Robert F.

June 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Criss:

President Johnson has asked me to thank you for your telegram at this time of terrible sorrow. In his words:

"The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death cast a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world."

The President more than shares your concern over lawlessness in a nation that has and must always draw strength from the decency and dedication of its people. Time and again he has called upon Congress to enact genuinely effective gun control legislation. You may want to read in full his message of June 6 to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The enclosed copy comes to you with the President's appreciation for your interest -- and his hope for your active support in this urgent cause. You may also wish to have the text of his remarks of June 5.

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

6

Mrs. Inez<sup>X</sup> Criss  
1317 Victoria Avenue  
Los Angeles, California

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

Enclosures: Rmks of 6/5 re Senator Kennedy;  
ltr of 6/6 to Speaker of House and President of Senate.

AQ:rrw

ag  
ack  
6-18-68

The White House  
Washington

1968 JUN 7 PM 4 17

WA427 NL PD

(<sup>3</sup>LOSANGELES CALIF)<sup>6</sup>

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS THEN

REACTING CANT WE DO SOMETHING, WHAT CAN I AS AN INDIVIDUAL DO OVER AND

<sup>3</sup> ABOVE MANY ACTIVITIES AS WIFE, MOTHER, DEMOCRAT, TEACHER, WRITER,

ACTRESS, NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT, TO HELP BRING

NATION BACK TO SANITY BEFORE IT GOES UNDER COMPLETELY?

<sup>2</sup> (MRS INEZ CRISS<sup>1</sup> (1317 VICTORIA AVE)<sup>2</sup> LOSANGELES.

FORM 0005 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A.

6/10 2



GENERAL

ND19/CO312/ND9  
SP3-236  
JL3/Kennedy, Robert

June 18, 1968

Dear Specialist Caldwell:

The President mourns with the nation -- and with countless millions around the world -- the tragic loss of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. In his words:

"This is a moment for all Americans to join hands and walk together through this dark night of common anguish into a new dawn of healing unity."

The President appreciates your thoughtful expressions of confidence. He asked me to thank you -- and to reassure you of his lasting commitment to the cause of peace, unity, and justice for all men.

With the President's gratitude, and with his warm best wishes,

Sincerely,

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

SP/5 James Caldwell  
RA 18910567  
A Btry 7/15 Arty.  
APO, San Francisco 96368

GMR:trd  
/

RECEIVED  
JUN 18 1968  
CENTRAL FILES